

Levy protests delay of Bonn aid

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy has protested at a German decision to delay more than a billion dollars in aid to Israel until it shows more flexibility in peace efforts, Israeli newspapers have reported. The *Haaretz* and *Jerusalem Post* newspapers said Monday and Tuesday that Levy wrote to his German counterpart Mr. Hans-Dietrich Genscher protesting Bonn's decision to pressure from Washington which is frustrated by the delay in an Arab-Israeli peace conference. Foreign ministry sources would not confirm nor deny the reports. Unidentified sources told the *Post* that the text of Levy's message was designed to embarrass the minister said the German government. Mr. Levy was said to be furious at the disclosure. Mr. Levy said the delay was not in line with Germany's "commitment" to Israel following World War II, the *Post* reported. U.S. President George Bush has hinted that U.S. help for absorbing an influx of Soviet Jews could hinge on whether Israel halts settlement, which Washington says obstructs peace. Last March, Mr. Levy said Germany would give large substantial grants and loans to ease its struggle to settle the newcomers arriving under Soviet emigration reforms.



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرابطة

Volume 16 Number 4739

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, JULY 3, 1991, THU AL HIGEH 21, 1411

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

King receives Moroccan message

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received Mr. Abdul Hadi Boutealeb, director general of the Islamic Organisation for Education, Culture and Science. Mr. Boutealeb conveyed to the King a message from King Hassan II of Morocco dealing with bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern. On Monday night, His Majesty King Hussein exchanged views with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on the latest developments in the region and the efforts being made to find a peaceful settlement to the Middle East problems.

Arab League chief to visit Syria, Lebanon and Jordan

CAIRO (R) — Arab League Secretary General, Esmat Abdul Meguid plans to visit Syria, Lebanon and Jordan from July 19 in an attempt to close Arab ranks, league sources said. Mr. Abdul Meguid, a former Egyptian foreign minister unanimously elected secretary general in May, has already toured Gulf states to try to end bitterness after the Gulf war.

Chinese premier arrives in Cairo

CAIRO (R) — Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng arrived in Egypt Tuesday at the start of six-country Middle East tour. Officials said Mr. Li's talks with Egyptian leaders were expected to focus on post-Gulf war security, attempts to bring Arabs and Israelis together for peace talks as well as arms control. After four days in Egypt, the Chinese premier, accompanied by Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, will go on to Jordan, Kuwait, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Syria.

Nathan 'plans' to visit Syria, Jordan and Yemen

TEL AVIV (AP) — Peace crusader Abie Nathan, already under fire for meeting Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, now plans to talk to officials in Syria, Jordan and Yemen, an Israeli daily said Tuesday. Mr. Nathan announced the plans in an interview Monday from Tunis where he has been conferring with Mr. Arafat, the daily *Yedioth Ahronoth* said. The 64-year-old Nathan said he asked Mr. Arafat to help him get visas to the Arab countries and would, only visit with an official invitation, the paper said.

Qadhafi seeks to heal Egypt-Sudan rift

CAIRO (AP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi flew in Tuesday from Khartoum on a one-day visit to try to mediate sour relations between Egypt and Sudan. President Hosni Mubarak greeted Colonel Qadhafi at Cairo international airport. The two leaders then headed for the port of Alexandria by train, a presidency official said. Col. Qadhafi said Monday in Khartoum his Cairo visit would be to follow up on a wish by Sudanese leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir to mend fences with his powerful neighbor to the north. "There are positive moves currently under way," Col. Qadhafi told reporters in Sudan.

Arafat gets help from Algeria

ALGIERS (AP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said Tuesday that Algeria has agreed to help open a dialogue with the Lebanese government and appealed to Egypt and Libya "to help end the new massacre of Palestinians." Following a meeting with Algerian President Chadli Bejjed, Mr. Arafat announced that Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi had been charged with "helping to open a dialogue with the Lebanese government... in concert with the Syrian and Lebanese parties." The Palestinian news agency Wafa reported that Mr. Arafat has sent an urgent message to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, visiting Cairo, "to help end the new massacre of Palestinians in southern Lebanon."

Lebanese army takes control of southern areas after fierce battles

SIDON (Agencies) — The Lebanese army Tuesday pushed out Palestinian fighters from hilltop outposts and forced them back into refugee camps, a key step in reestablishing government control over unruly South Lebanon. A police spokesman said two army officers were killed and 60 people wounded in the nine-hour battle with fighters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), who were dug into three hilltop villages east of Sidon. Half of the wounded were civilians, police said.

The army on Monday had moved into Sidon, the provincial capital 40 kilometres south of Beirut, and met only scattered resistance. The fighters now are encircled in the 'Ain Al Hilweh and Mich Mich camps on Sidon's eastern edge. Defence Minister Michel Murr, who announced completion of the army deployment on state-

run radio, said the fighters would not be pursued into the camps, home to about 60,000 refugees. "No, the army would not enter the camps," Mr. Murr promised. By late afternoon the army controlled almost all main roads in the area but the PLO held on to bases in ravines and olive groves. Troops rushed to cut guerrilla supply lines before dark.

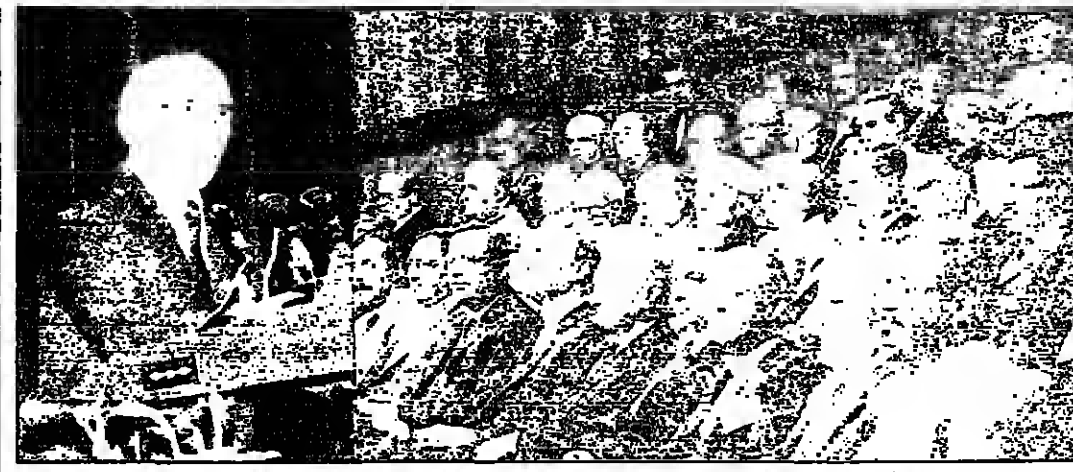
Security sources and witnesses said the troops, supported by tanks and armoured cars, was in control of the villages of 'Ain Al Delh, Jinsaya, Baisour, Mjeidel and Qrayeh. An estimated 6,000 PLO fighters have regrouped in South Lebanon since 1983, when Syrian troops and Syrian-backed Palestinian dissidents drove the PLO from its bases in northern Lebanon.

Before that, in 1982, invading Israeli forces had uprooted the PLO from the south and Beirut, then the organisation's Middle East power base.

The PLO had said it would not hinder the Lebanese army's deployment here under a 1989 Arab League-brokered peace accord aimed at ending 16 years of civil war. But it wanted assurances that its fighters could retain their weapons, both for self-defence and to continue their struggle against the Jewish state.

Statements issued from the PLO headquarters in Tunis on Tuesday pleaded with Lebanese officials to "start political discussions." PLO leader Yasser Arafat, in an interview published in the London-based *Middle East Mirror* newsletter, said that Lebanese sovereignty could be reconciled with the Palestinians' cause.

The PLO, he said, was seeking "an agreement to preserve the security of the camps, maintain the Palestinian gun for resistance against Israeli occupation and, at the same time, preserve Lebanese sovereignty and



His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday addresses the eighth conference of Al al Bayt Foundation (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

King calls on Islamic scholars to unite and provide guidance

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday called on Islamic scholars to unite and offer guidance to the Islamic Nation, away from disharmony and differences. Addressing the eighth conference of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al al Bayt Foundation), the King deplored the "large crack in the body of the nation" as a result of divergent views of ulemas and their failure to agree "on a consensus of righteousness to unite them."

The King said that while differences and rift plagued the ulemas, there were some scholars who "distanced themselves from this strife. They spoke sparingly, and only to guide towards what is good, or they held their peace to avoid widening the chasm or fanning the fire."

"It is time for the nation to hear rational and less vociferous words from Islamic scholars," he said. "It is time for these scholars to start a new phase... it is time for the nation to leave the phase of generality and ambiguity, to start one of precision and clarity of ends and means..."

Shiites want Kurds to end talks with government

DAMASCUS (R) — Iraqi opposition groups meeting in Damascus called on Kurdish rebel leaders Tuesday to break off their autonomy talks with the Iraqi government. The Kurds, the only opposition group negotiating with the government, had planned to send negotiators back to Baghdad to seek better terms on autonomy for their region.

U.N. inspectors see Iraqi nuclear-related equipment

BAGHDAD (R) — The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Iraq to seek evidence of a secret atomic weapons programme, said Tuesday that he had seen nuclear-related equipment during an on-site inspection. But Hans Blix, one of three troubleshooters sent by the U.N. Security Council, would not say whether it was equipment a team of investigators were prevented from inspecting on Friday during an incident in which Iraqi soldiers allegedly fired shots in the air.

"We saw something that was of interest," Mr. Blix told reporters before briefing his colleagues in the Security Council mission. Asked if what he saw was nuclear related, he replied: "Yes."

Bush threatens to go public with peace plan

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine (Agencies) — U.S. President George Bush has threatened to go public with his thus far confidential Middle East peace formula if he is unable to get Arabs and Israelis to attend a peace conference. At a press conference at his ocean-side vacation home here Monday, he also took a tough line on the contentious matter of Israeli settlements on the occupied Arab territories, saying: "We're not giving one inch on the settlements questions."

Mr. Bush and Secretary of State James Baker have been working since March to bring Arabs and Israelis to a peace conference that would lead to direct negotiations. Within that time Mr. Baker had made four trips to the Middle East. Despite some progress, they have failed to reach agreement and to many the process now looks stalemated.

Some American experts have suggested Mr. Bush should just issue invitations to a peace conference and see who shows up — a move some feel would dramatically prove which parties want peace and lay blame on those who do not. Senior U.S. officials have said that option has been discussed but Mr. Bush refused to say if it was something he might seriously consider.

So far, Mr. Bush and Mr. Baker have been quite secretive in their diplomacy, a strategy designed to make it easier for historic enemies to compromise. But Mr. Bush told reporters: "At some point I think I owe the American people my view of the details I'm not willing to discuss right now, and that wouldn't bother me one bit, to get up and say here's what we've been trying to do."

Algeria turmoil persists

ALGIERS (Agencies) — The army said Tuesday it had seized weapons caches at several mosques and reported four deaths, 44 injuries and 340 arrests in the latest clashes with Muslim fundamentalists. By official count, nearly 1,100 people, including the two senior leaders of the fundamentalist movement, have been arrested in a three-day crackdown aimed at quashing anti-government protests and agitation.

Yugoslav truce shattered

OTOCEC, Yugoslavia (Agencies) — Federal forces launched air and artillery raids Tuesday in Slovenia, knocking out communications and fighting pitched battles with rebel troops along the borders of the breakaway republic. Jets screamed overhead and fired into the ground, and black smoke from burning trucks clouded the sky as a federal armoured unit tried to burst through a Slovene blockade to free another unit pinned down by Slovene fire.

Bilbeisi plans to take Time to court

Businessman says he is target of defamation campaign

Yugoslav truce shattered

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The trapped tank unit tried to move through an encirclement of Slovene forces when the two sides began trading fire before dawn, witnesses said. The army said seven troops were killed and 13 were wounded in the clash in the Kravkov forest, near Otocec not far from the Croatian border. Associated Press reporter John Daniszewski counted one dead and two wounded among the federal troops that went to the aid of trapped soldiers.

Slovenia's Information Ministry reported militiamen and federal soldiers were killed but gave no figures. The republic's radio said there were "many victims."

Fighting later broke out on Slovenia's northern border with Austria at the Radogona crossing, where the two sides exchanged fire and a federal army tank fired rounds at the rebels. Austrian police also told the AP that there was shooting at Slovenia's Sentilj border with Austria.

Bush: War in Kuwait was not for democracy

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine (R) — President George Bush said Monday the United States fought the Iraqi army out of Kuwait not for democracy but to stop aggression. "Let me say this — I hope it doesn't come out wrong — the war wasn't fought about democracy in Kuwait," Mr. Bush told reporters at his Kennebunkport holiday home. "The war was fought about aggression against Kuwait."

Bush: War in Kuwait was not for democracy

The president, who was asked about the post-Gulf war crackdown in Kuwait, also defended the imposition of martial law there and the strong reaction against people suspected of sympathy for Iraqi government, whose troops occupied Kuwait last August.

Bush: War in Kuwait was not for democracy

But Mr. Bush added that he wanted to see a fair judicial system in Kuwait. "We want to see fair trials, open trials," he said. "What I'd like to see is as much respect for what we see as legal principles as possible."

Bilbeisi plans to take Time to court

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A prominent Jordanian businessman has refuted allegations of clandestine deals and is preparing to sue *Time* magazine for libel for making "unfounded charges" that he was trying to swindle Lloyds of London through insurance claims.

"What *Time* has written about me and my business is totally untrue and I intend to take legal action against the magazine," the businessman, Mr. Munther Bilbeisi, told the Jordan Times.

"There is little doubt that I am targeted in a concerted campaign aimed at discrediting me, and *Time* has allowed itself to be used as a tool in the campaign to discredit me," he said. "But I am not going to take it lying down. I intend to fight back."

Bilbeisi plans to take Time to court

Mr. Bilbeisi declined to say where he intended to launch the legal proceedings but revealed that he would be seeking \$100 million in damages from *Time*.

Bilbeisi plans to take Time to court

"For all practical purposes the drive against me is aimed at avoiding settling my insurance claims," Mr. Bilbeisi asserted. The *Time* article, which appeared in the magazine's June 24 issue, says that Mr. Bilbeisi was involved in arms deals with South Africa and Latin America and in smuggling of coffee worth \$35 million into the U.S. in violation of tariff agreements.

Bilbeisi plans to take Time to court

The article also states that



Munther Bilbeisi

Mr. Bilbeisi had filed insurance claims with Lloyds of London for "alleged theft" — a house burglary, as the Jordanian businessman put it — and "commercial losses on an undocumented coffee shipment."

Other charges levelled against Mr. Bilbeisi include bribery to American officials and collusion with the Bank of Credit and Commerce (BCCI), which is under indictment in the U.S. for alleged money-laundering.

"The magazine has not only hurt my reputation as an honest businessman, but also sought to undermine my marriage," Mr. Bilbeisi said, referring to a



جامعة فيلادلفيا
PHILADELPHIA UNIVERSITY

Philadelphia University announces that the meeting with Tawjhi students and their parents, which was set for Saturday July 6, has now been postponed till after the announcement of the Tawjhi results.

The new date for the meeting is on Wednesday July 31 at 6:00 p.m.

Hamas renews terms for joining PNC; PLO says it is open only to 'suggestions'

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Islamic fundamentalist movement, Hamas, has called on the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to drop its 1988 peace strategy and to accept direct elections of members of the Palestine National Council (PNC) as two conditions to be met before Hamas would join the organisation, according to Hamas officials in Amman.

"These are our two major preconditions to join the PNC," said Ibrahim Ghosheh, a senior Hamas official, in an interview with the Jordan Times.

In an initial reaction to the call, a senior PLO official said that the organisation would accept the principle of direct elections of PNC members in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip if Israel authorised such a step.

"If any party can convince Israel to hold such elections it is more than welcome," PLO Executive Committee member Mohammad Milhem said.

But he indicated that even though the PLO welcomed Hamas' participation it will not accept preconditions that might undermine the organisation.

"The floor is open for all Palestinian groups to put forward ideas that they believe can serve the Palestinian national interests," he said. "But we do not accept preconditions that aim at undermining PLO institutions."

Mr. Milhem said that Hamas would be able to make its suggestions and proposals at the meetings of a preparatory committee of the PNC which will be held in the near future.

PLO officials said that all Palestinian groups were invited to take part in the preparatory com-

mittee meetings.

Mr. Ghosheh confirmed that PNC Speaker Sheikh Abdul Hamid Sayeh had sent an invitation to Hamas to attend a meeting of the council's preparatory committee. "We are still considering the invitation but we remain committed to our conditions," he said.

Hamas was established in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip shortly after the eruption of the Palestinian uprising (Intifada) four years ago.

From the very beginning it has rallied support on the basis of rejection of talks with Israel and called for the liberation of all Palestine, including Israel proper. It has rejected the 1988 PLO peace strategy, which calls for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel, and has urged the organisation to drop the plan.

Although it is difficult to accurately assess the strength of Hamas, it has emerged as a very influential movement, especially in the Gaza Strip.

Two weeks ago Hamas achieved a landslide victory in elections of the Arab Chamber of Commerce in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. It competed with representatives of all other PLO groups.

Some Palestinian analysts believe that divisions within the PLO groups had helped Hamas to increase its influence in the Palestinian institutions. But Hamas officials counter that the result of the elections reflected Hamas' strength on the ground.

They argue that Hamas' influence and consequently its political line should be translated in the PLO decision-making institutions if the movement is to join the organisation.

Last year Hamas demanded 40



Mohammad Milhem

percent of the 380-member PNC seats as a precondition to take part in the council.

This week Mr. Ghosheh, who is based in Amman, said that the movement did not accept the present PNC structure and demanded free and direct elections to allow "a fair and proportionate representation of Palestinians everywhere."

"We cannot accept the present structure of the PNC; it will have to change," he said, adding that there should be quotas to determine the number of seats for Palestinians in each country and the occupied territories that corresponds to their numbers.

Hamas, which had conveyed its conditions to the PLO, proposes that such elections should be supervised by the United Nations.

Even though the idea of conducting elections of PNC members in the occupied territories has been raised and discussed within the ranks of the PLO in the last few months, some officials fear that it will give way to

Israel's proposal to elect an alternative Palestinian leadership. Furthermore, such elections in other countries could be proved to be an unrealistic proposal.

Mr. Milhem said that the PLO was not ready to endorse any proposal that will violate the laws and regulations of Arab countries where Palestinians live.

"Each Arab country has its own laws and regulations. We are not ready to take any step that might violate these laws or encroach upon the sovereignty of these Arab countries," Mr. Milhem asserted.

Many PLO officials believe that Hamas has not dropped its objective of trying to undermine the organisation or take over the Palestinian movement.

Hamas officials admit, that they believe that direct elections will ensure the Islamic movement's domination of the PLO.

"If these elections are held we expect to get 40 to 50 per cent of the PNC seats," Mr. Ghosheh contended.

The Islamic official reiterated his movement's rejection of any peace talks with Israel and renewed its demands that the PLO drop its peace plan.

"We believe that the current peace proposals aim at guaranteeing the interests and the security of the Jewish entity and the normalisation of relations between the Jewish state and the Arab countries without any territorial concessions," he argued.

Mr. Milhem said that Hamas was welcome to raise its concerns and try to make amendments provided that the aim was not to create an alternative PLO.

"Amendments and adjustments are possible but attempts to form another PLO are just unacceptable," he stressed.

Differences continue to plague Afghan rebels

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, (R) — A minister in the Afghan guerrilla government resigned Tuesday saying he could no longer work with people secretly talking to the Soviet-backed administration in Kabul.

Farooq Azam, education minister in the Afghan Interim Government (AIG), told a news conference he had been forced to quit by its failure to hold elections in Afghanistan and links between guerrilla leaders and Afghan President Najibullah.

He told reporters the leader of his National Islamic Front, Mr. Ahmad Gailani, and AIG President Sibghatullah Mojaddidi had privately acknowledged meeting Mr. Najibullah.

"Since Mr. Gailani has developed close links and spheres of cooperation with Mr. Najibullah ... I cannot support him in pursuing such policies, which are, I consider, against the interests of Jihad (holy war) and the party itself."

National Islamic Front sources acknowledge in private that Mr. Gailani met Mr. Najibullah in Geneva last year, but the talks have always been officially denied.

Mujahideen guerrilla leaders publicly reject any idea of negotiating with the Kabul government, but both sides in the 13-year-old war say there are unofficial contacts.

The AIG was created in Pakistan in 1989 after the final withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, but was swiftly damaged by factional fighting and a failure to start an election process.

In January, the AIG sacked most of its staff because of a shortage of funds, keeping only the health and education ministries working in camps housing most of the three million Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

The differences among the various Afghan rebel groups have also blocked agreement on another key issue.

The leader of Iran-based Afghan guerrillas said Monday he was returning to Tehran after failing to reach agreement with Pakistan-based guerrillas on seats on a rebel commission.

But Wahdat-e-Islami party leader Rehmattullah Mortazavi told a news conference he would return 25 days later to resume talks on the issue as well as on a United Nations plan for a political solution to the 12-year-old Afghan conflict.

Mr. Mortazavi said his party, grouping eight Shi'ite Muslim guerrilla groups in Iran, was seeking five of 25 seats of a commission proposed by the guerrillas to form a future Afghan government.

But he said the major Sunni Muslim guerrilla groups based in Peshawar agreed to only three seats. He has met several guerrilla leaders in Peshawar during the past two weeks.

Some hardline Sunni guerrillas do not want to give representation to Shi'ites on a religious basis.

"We have given our ideas to Peshawar leaders, Mr. Mortazavi said. "We have no animosity with them. They themselves have problems within themselves."

But he said he hoped a consensus on the issue would be reached.

Mr. Mortazavi met Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad Sunday. An official statement quoted the president as calling for unity among the Mujahideen guerrillas and urging them to work for an early Afghan settlement.

A row over seats has also kept the Iran-based guerrillas out of the government-in-exile.

Mr. Mortazavi hinted his peace plan would mirror a U.N.-sponsored proposal calling for a transitional government, a ceasefire and elections.

But he said his proposal will have no role for President Najibullah or his government.

"We will never sit with Najibullah or include him in a government of Mujahideen," Mr. Mortazavi said.

The Associated Press reported Monday that neutral Switzerland had been asked to mediate the Afghan conflict.

As a high-ranking Swiss delegation shuttled from Moscow to Kabul to the Mujahideen headquarters in Pakistan, diplomats, government officials and the guerrillas said they were optimistic a plan to end the bloodiest and costliest conflict of the 1980s would be in place by January.

"This year, with the help of all, we hope to be able to put the process on the right track," said one negotiator, speaking on condition of anonymity.

In the latest diplomatic initiative to find a solution to the war, the Swiss delegation headed by Mr. Klaus Jacob, the second-highest ranking official at the Swiss foreign ministry, was due to leave Kabul for Pakistan Tuesday evening, sources said.

The delegation was to talk with government officials in Islamabad before meeting with the guerrillas in Peshawar.

Stolen mosaics to be sent back to Cyprus

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Three years after they were spirited out of Europe, four rare religious mosaics from the early centuries of Christianity are going home to Cyprus.

The Byzantine mosaics are the biggest reward so far for Cyprus' effort to recover thousands of national treasures plundered after a 1974 invasion by Turkey.

U.S. District Judge James E. Noland ruled in 1989 that Indianapolis art dealer Peg Goldberg never acquired rights to the glass mosaics because she did not adequately investigate suspicious circumstances and players involved in their \$1.08 million sale.

Mr. Noland emphasised that buyers should know and trust art sellers they deal with and should be suspicious of objects that are damaged or offered at a bargain price.

"Because of this precedent we are strengthened in our efforts to reclaim our cultural heritage wherever it was pillaged," said Michael E. Sheriffs, the Cypriot ambassador to the United States.

But art experts say Mr. Noland's ruling has not improved Third World claims to most stolen works on the international market but has made some dealers and museums more cautious about major acquisitions.

"There's this whole notion that antiquities are *prima facie* suspect these days and that the burden is on the buyer to be very, very careful in what they're doing," said Gary Vikan, curator of the Walters Art Gallery in Baltimore.

The 0.6-metre-square mosaics will be displayed at the Indianapolis Museum of Art until Sunday. The date of their return is uncertain. Experts from Cyprus and the museum may repair the mosaics before sending them back to their home, where they will be housed in a church museum until their return to the village of Lythrankomi.

Cypriot officials learned the whereabouts of the sixth century mosaics after the Ms. Goldberg tried to sell the pieces for \$20 million.

Iran Air reportedly using civilian aircraft sent by Iraqis

NICOSIA (AP) — Airlines that Iraq sent to Iran for safekeeping during the Gulf war — including some taken from Kuwait — have been repainted and put into commercial service by Iran Air, according to sources in Tehran.

Iran Air began using the aircraft last month to deliver 117,000 Iranians for the annual Muslim pilgrimage to holy cities in Saudi Arabia, said the sources, who insisted on anonymity.

They said the aircraft also were being used to bring those pilgrims home from Jeddah airport.

A hardline Iranian newspaper opposed to President Hashemi Rafsanjani reported Sunday that eight Iran Air airliners of Kuwaiti origin were flown to Jeddah.

The newspaper also said the Saudis had confiscated them on behalf of Kuwait, but this was dismissed by reliable sources in Tehran.

Saudi Arabia Tuesday denied the report.

"The report is absolutely baseless in sum and total," the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted an official civil aviation source as saying.

The source, who was not identified, "expressed regret at the fabrication of such mischievous reports," SPA said.

The report in Jahan-e-Islam (the World of Islam) was believed aimed at embarrassing Mr. Rafsanjani at a time when both Tehran and Riyadh have been trying to end a long-running feud and improve relations.

During the Gulf war, the U.S. military disclosed that 137 Iraqi civilian and military aircraft were

flown to Iran, apparently for safekeeping from allied air attacks. (Iraq has put the number of planes at 148, and demanded their return.)

Without disclosing the number of aircraft it had received, Iran said at the time it would return the planes at war's end.

But more recently, Tehran has said it wants Iraq to pay war reparations from the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war. There has been speculation that if Baghdad did not pay, Iran would keep the aircraft, which are worth an estimated \$3 billion.

Speaking by telephone from Tehran, an Asian diplomat said he was unable to confirm how many of the airliners had been repainted and were in service with Iran Air.

But he said they included Airbus and Boeing 747s.

The Iraqis did not have any Airbus. Those flown to Iran, and now in service with Iran Air, are believed to be among 14 taken from Kuwait by Iraq.

Kuwait Airways has said the Iraqis took five Airbus A310-200s and one Airbus A300-400, two Boeing 767-200s, two Boeing 767-200ERs, two Gulfstream IIIs and two BAE 125s during their seven-month occupation.

Kuwait has put in an order for 24 Airbus to replace its ravaged fleet.

Diplomats in Tehran told the Associated Press in May that some of the Iraqi warplanes had been repainted with the colours of the Iranian air force.

Iraq has said it sent 33 civil and 115 military aircraft to Iran for safekeeping from allied air raids

during the Gulf war. But Iran maintains it received only 22.

The planes were a godsend for the Iraqis, who have been squeezed by an embargo banning U.S. technology to Iran and a shortage of foreign currency.

They have been unable to buy wide-bodied Airbus or Boeing aircraft, which officials had said were desperately needed to service a 55 per cent increase in air travel in the past decade.

The embargo imposed after Iran's anti-American government came to power following the 1979 revolution.

The European-manufactured Airbus are fitted with avionics equipment and engines manufactured in the United States, so they are therefore coveted by the embargo.

Most of the airliners from Iraq can be easily integrated into the Iran Air fleet, which includes aging Airbus, older-model Boeing and six Fokker F-10Js.

Iraq Air has lost at least seven aircraft since 1980. The latest was an A300 mistakenly taken for a warplane and downed by the U.S. navy in the Gulf during the Iran-Iraq war.

Iraq's depleted air force was almost wholly based on U.S. equipment. But unable to buy warplanes from the West, the Iraqis bought an estimated 14 MiG-29 fighters from the Soviet Union in September.

The Revolutionary Guard's air wing has some MiG-21 "fishbeds," and unconfirmed reports have said it is also seeking SU-24s and MiG-23s to replace its mainly U.S.-built fleet.

Ethiopians promised democracy

ADDIS ABABA (Agencies) — A charter promising democracy and an end to decades of repression in Ethiopia was Tuesday presented to political groups meeting in Addis Ababa to appoint a transitional government.

"The overthrow of the military dictatorship... presents a historic moment, providing the peoples of Ethiopia with the opportunity to restructure the state democratically," said the four-point document.

The reports also said that independence-seeking Eritreans have agreed to cooperate with Addis Ababa.

The second day of the national conference on Ethiopia's transitional government opened with the formal presentation by the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) of the draft government charter.

The conference on arranging a broad-based transitional government is the outcome of a pledge made at U.S.-brokered peace talks in London, which ended May 28 with the EPRDF takeover of Addis Ababa.

Twenty-five political factions are in Addis Ababa now hammering out the agreement on the country's future. They will have to overcome the traditional fears of Ethiopia's many ethnic groups of being dominated by any single tribal or political organisation.

The independence-minded Eritrean People's Liberation Front, the second largest rebel group, has declined to participate in a national transitional government.

JORDAN TELEVISION

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PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Children's programme
18:30 Documentary
19:00 News in French
19:15 French varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Don't wait up
21:10 Our House
22:00 News in English
22:30 News in English

Not A Penny More. Not A Penny Less

PRAYER TIMES

03:52 Fajr
05:27 Sunrise (Duh) 12:38 Ohut
16:19 'Asr
19:50 Maghreb
20:25 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedisch, Tel. 810730
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661257

Terranova Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

House International Church Tel. 683326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932

Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp. Amman 15/30

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Aqaba 24/37

Deserts 18/34

Jordan Valley 23/36

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 21, Aqaba 37. Humidity readings: Amman 50 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Khalid Mu'addi 743500

Dr. Saad Tawfiq 788205

Dr. Abdul Qader Lala 690508

Dr. Khalil Al Jahali 740740

Firas Pharmacy 661912

Ferdous pharmacy 783336

Al Asoma pharmacy 637055

Narouki pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shneissani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:

Dr. Ziad Al A'taj (—)

Al Sharra's pharmacy (2758251)

ZARQA:

Dr. Rabah Al Borim (—)

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate 630441

Rescue 199

Civil Defence Emergency 637777

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630221

Ferdous pharmacy 605800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 897467

Complaints 787111

Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone

Repairs 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 771111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680103

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 630381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalidi Maternity, J. Ann. 644281/6

Khalidi Maternity, J. Ann. 642411/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Milhas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmeissani 669131

Shmeissani Hospital 645845

University Hospital 667277/9

Al-Musharraf Hospital 666173/7

Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6

Itallay, Al-Musharraf 771012

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/25

Jordan, Japan review economic cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz Tuesday reviewed with a representative of a Japanese economic agency the general state of Jordan's economy and the government's efforts to deal with it in the aftermath of the Gulf war.



Ziad Fariz

Fariz reviewed with Mr. Naomichi Nakamura, vice president of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the progress for Japanese-Jordanian efforts in a number of economic fields. JICA officially opens its new office in Amman today.

The JICA Jordan Office, as the new branch is to be known, will promote better relations and deeper mutual understanding between Jordan and Japan, officials said. The field office will also coordinate and implement all of Japan's government-based technical cooperation programmes in the Kingdom.

Dr. Fariz expressed Jordan's deep appreciation to Japan for its aid to the Kingdom in the form of equipment, training and volunteer work.

Jordan is looking forward to further cooperation with JICA through its new office and hopes to benefit from Japanese exper-

ise in the Kingdom's ongoing development programmes, he said.

Dr. Fariz said he hoped that the JICA would help Jordan export its industrial products to Japan and other countries.

The opening of the JICA office in Amman reflects Japan's deep interest in further cooperation with Jordan, Mr. Nakamura said. Accordingly, Japan will strive to develop its aid programmes to the Kingdom in all fields, he added.

Japanese aid agency opens office in Amman

By Nidal M. Ibrahim
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A Japanese government agency whose main task is assisting the development of economies of Third World countries will officially open an office here Wednesday, according to an official of the agency.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) hopes that the opening of its new office in Amman will promote better relations and a deeper mutual understanding between Jordan and Japan, said Mr. Naomichi Hiraoka, resident representative of the JICA Jordan Office.

"Because of the exchange of people from Japan and Jordan, we can know each other more," Mr. Hiraoka said. "The office will coordinate and help implement a variety of government-based technical cooperation programmes, ranging from technological transfers to conducting studies for the Jordanian government," Mr. Hiraoka said.

Although JICA has had a presence in Jordan for some time now, the opening of the Amman office further entrenches the agency as a major contributor and assistant to the Jordanian economy, Mr. Hiraoka added.

The values of JICA programmes to Jordan in 1988 and 1989 were \$8.4 million and 6.8 million respectively, according to Mr. Hiraoka. Final figures for 1990 were not available, he said.

The amount of assistance JICA provides to Jordan de-

pends on the number of requests the government submits to the agency, Mr. Hiraoka said.

"We are not allocating a specific budget to Jordan, but requests for aid are evaluated on a project to project basis," Mr. Hiraoka added.

Requests for assistance from JICA have and will continue to be conducted through official channels at the Japanese Embassy, Mr. Hiraoka said. The JICA office in Amman will serve to further coordinate requests and provide information about the organisation's activities.

Among the programmes the new office will be responsible for the Technical Training Programme, Expert Dispatch Programme, Provision of Equipment for Technical Cooperation, Project-Type Technical Cooperation, Development Studies, Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers and Disaster Relief Aid and Cooperation.

Before the Gulf war, the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers Programme had 27 volunteers, mostly university graduates, in Jordan, Mr. Hiraoka said. Despite their evacuation during the crisis and the war, the volunteers have all since returned, he said. In addition, one new volunteer joined and four more are scheduled to arrive in Jordan in mid-July.

Volunteers have applied their skills in various organisations around Amman, including positions at area hospitals and at the Jordanian University, Mr. Hiraoka said.

Abbadi: Medical services at Bashir Hospital need upgrading

AMMAN (Petra) — Medical services offered by Al Bashir Hospital and ways for upgrading them were the focus of a meeting held at the hospital Tuesday chaired by Health Minister Mamdouh Al Abbadi.

Since its establishment Al Bashir Hospital has not witnessed sufficient improvements to cope with the growing number of patients and the population growth neither has there been an increase in the number of beds," the minister said at the meeting.

Dr. Abbadi said that the main burden in health services had been shouldered by the hospital doctors and the hospital staff.

"Al Bashir Hospital has been handling a burden far greater than it could shoulder due to the

lack of sufficient equipment and other means," the minister pointed out.

"For a doctor to conduct his work in an efficient manner, he should be at ease materially and psychologically, so that there will be no constraints that could impede health services," the minister added.

The minister voiced his view that doctors working at Al Bashir Hospital should be treated on equal footing with those working at the Jordan University Hospital and said that the Health Ministry hopes to overcome obstacles in the way of attaining the highest possible standard of health services.

Al Bashir Hospital Director

Yousef Issa presented a briefing to the meeting outlining the general services offered to the patients and a number of problems faced by the hospital administration and medical staff.

He noted in particular the crowded conditions at the hospital, due to the big number of out-patients and said that all the hospital's sections continually had to deal with a growing number of cases.

Heads of different sections also aired their views and mentioned a number of problems. They said that the pressure on the hospital could be greatly eased by promoting the primary health services at the integrated health centres in Jordan.

Minister says more efficient health personnel needed to reach health-for-all goal

AMMAN (J.T.) — Health Minister Mamdouh Al Abbadi Tuesday said that the shortage of efficient and well-trained personnel in the area of primary health care is to blame for any delay in achieving the health-for-all goal by the year 2000.

Mr. Abbadi said that the Health Ministry alone could not achieve this end without the participation of all people concerned with health issues.

Addressing the opening session of a 10-day inter-country workshop for the Health For All Personnel, organised by the World Health Organisation (WHO), in cooperation with the Health Ministry, Mr. Abbadi said that no country, however great its resources, could achieve its own health targets without involving

the society in formulating a health policy.

We stressed the need for turning the society from a "passive" recipient role to one of active participation in implementing the health goals.

Dr. Abbadi said that the ministry had gone a long way on the path of implementing the health-for-all target by the year 2000 and had set up more than 507 health centres providing primary health care to citizens.

Speaking about the general objective of the workshop, Dr. Omar Imam, director of the Division of Health Systems Infrastructure at the WHO, said the workshop aimed at creating experts, capable of implementing the health-for-all target at the

national level.

To a telephone interview with the Jordan Times, Dr. Imam pointed out that the development of health in any country demanded that such personnel be identified and found capable of realising the importance of achieving the health-for-all target.

Dr. Imam, who read Dr. Hussein Jezairis speech, the regional director of the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office. Speech, thanked Jordan for hosting the workshop and for its continued support of WHO activities.

Taking part in the workshop are 30 participants from Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Iraq and Libya in addition to five experts from the WHO.

... education should transcend the stage of merely supplying knowledge to expanding a person's mind

New private university to open

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A new university is scheduled to open in Amman in the coming 1991-1992 academic year.

The Philadelphia University will concentrate on a new educational philosophy which believes that university education should transcend the stage of merely supplying knowledge to expanding the learning faculties and scopes in a person's mind, Mrs. Leila Sharif, a member of the university's board of trustees, said at a press conference on Tuesday.

Mrs. Sharaf, a member of the Upper House of Parliament, also said that the philosophy adopted by the Philadelphia University would aim at enabling students to develop

athletics in an effort to strengthen and encourage extra-curricular activities.

"The Jordanian citizen is known to have special characteristics and that is why we should work at promoting our country so that it becomes the haven of culture and education in the Middle East," Mrs. Sharaf added.

The university's acceptance policy will be determined by laws set by the Higher Council for Education. Mrs. Sharaf stressed that a student's acceptance would not only take into account the high-school examination (tawjihi) grade, but will be based on other considerations too, such as the grades of the last three years in school.

"I don't think it is fair to

base our acceptance on one grade only, we should take other elements into consideration such as personal circumstances, examination pressure and other matters," Mrs. Sharaf said. "That is why we will sometimes conduct interviews with our students to see if they have any potential that should be looked into."

The university will offer the following courses: communications engineering, electrical engineering, computer engineering, computer science, computer information systems programme, economics, accounting, money and banking, business administration, translation, functional English, journalistic English and administrative, trade and economic English.

APPRECIATION

We, the Sri Lankan citizens in Jordan, sincerely extend our greetings to His Excellency Tawfiq Abu Khail on the occasion of his designation as the non-consul general of Sri Lanka in Jordan. We also express our gratitude to His Excellency the consul general and to the staff of the consulate of the Socialist Democratic Republic of Sri Lanka in Jordan, for the yeoman service and assistance that is rendered to our fellow-citizens, and specially to the refugees who came to the consulate for help and assistance.

J.F.S. Thomas
Leader of the Sinhala Fellowship of the Assembly of God Church in Amman
P.O. Box 184094, Amman-Jordan

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR PREQUALIFICATION KING ABDULLAH TEACHING HOSPITAL JUST TENDER NO. 065

Jordan University of Science and Technology has the pleasure of inviting international contractors to prequalify for the construction, completion and maintenance of the King Abdullah Teaching Hospital. The project consists of 15 floor cruciform tower block and horizontal low-rise buildings with an approximate area of one hundred thousand square metres to accommodate around 650 beds.

Applications for prequalification are obtained from University Tenders Board Secretary.

The documents should be submitted to:
The Secretary General,
Central Tendering Committee,
Jordan University of Science and Technology,
Irbid-Jordan.

at or before 12 noon of Monday, September 2, 1991.

For further information, please contact:

The Director,
Department of Engineering Projects,
JUST
Telephone: 295111 ext.: 2953
Telex: 55545 JUST JO
Fax: 295123

Sit-in protests treatment of Palestinians in Israeli jails

AMMAN (Petra) — A special committee in charge of following up on the state of Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli prisons and detention camps staged a sit-in Tuesday at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) premises to protest the Israeli practices against Palestinian prisoners and detainees.

Taking part in the sit-in were some 400 people who shouted anti-Israeli slogans. Mr. Hassan Abdul Jawad, rapporteur of the committee, who has been deported from the occupied Arab territories, said the sit-in was a gesture of support for some 18,000 Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli prisons.

Mr. Abdul Jawad said that Palestinian prisoners and detainees were treated badly by the Israelis. He said that the Israeli occupation authorities had reduced the quantity of food served to prisoners and the materials used for personal hygiene.

He added that the Israelis had issued regulations banning visits to prisoners and detainees unless their relatives and families obtain prior permits to visit them.

A delegation representing the people taking part in the sit-in handed a memorandum to the ICRC delegate to forward it to the committee's headquarters in Geneva. The memorandum called on the ICRC to intervene immediately and put an end to the oppressive Israeli practices against Palestinian prisoners.

The memorandum also stated dissatisfaction with the ICRC's silence over Israeli violations and encroachments in the occupied Arab territories.



Sit-in organised Tuesday at the International Committee of the Red Cross premises protests treatment of the Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli prisons (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Social Security regulations have to be fully enforced, Masri says

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Taher Masri Tuesday circulated instructions to various government departments and public institutions calling on them to refrain from terminating the accounts of foreign firms that have completed projects in Jordan before first consulting with the Social Security Corporation (SSC).

All government departments

for which foreign companies had carried out projects should not end their association with these companies until a clearance is obtained from the SSC in accordance with stated regulations, according to the instructions from Mr. Masri.

Local and foreign firms and their employees are covered by the SSC law enacted in 1980.

A number of foreign firms have completed projects for government departments and public companies and have left the country without first obtaining clearance from the SSC, failing to pay applicable charges, according to the circular.

Such practices have created problems for the SSC and have hindered its work, the circular said.

Patricide gets death sentence

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian youth who stabbed his father to death has been sentenced to death by the martial court, according to a report in the Arabic daily Al Dustour.

The youth, who was the only

bread-winner of the family, killed his father because he was being forced to provide him with JD 35 per month. The father, who was blind, sought and won the alimony in court after his son refused to care for him.

In order to relieve himself of the court-appointed debt, the youth stabbed the father with a meat knife as his father was doing ablution in preparation for performing Al Fajr prayer.

PLO official laid to rest

AMMAN (J.T.) — The body of Abdul Rahim Ahmad, member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee, who died Sunday was laid to rest in Swedieh, near Amman, Tuesday.

His Majesty King Hussein delegated Chief Chamberlain Prince Raed Ben Zeid to attend the funeral and to offer his condolences to the bereaved family. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein delegated Iraq's Ambassador to Jordan Nouri Al Wayes to attend the funeral.

Taking part was Palestine Ambassador to Jordan Al Tayeb Abdul Rahim and other members of the PLO Executive Committee. Also in attendance was the commander of the Palestine Force in Jordan as well as members of the Palestine National Council (PNC). Leaders of Jordanian political parties and

professional unions were also present.

The body of Mr. Ahmad, 47, was wrapped in the Palestinian flag and carried to the mosque for prayers before it was buried. Mr. Ahmad, who ran the Amman-based Popular Organisations Department of the PLO, had been ill with cancer.

Born in the Palestinian village of Haditha, near Lod, he joined the ranks of Palestine freedom fighters as a teenager and formed the Arab Liberation Front with financial help from Iraq in 1970.

In 1982, the PNC elected him member of its Executive Committee, a 15-man decision-making body which is headed by PLO Chief Yasser Arafat.

King Hussein Monday telephoned Mr. Arafat expressing condolences over the passing away of Mr. Ahmad.

Week-long youth activities to benefit the local community

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of 80 Jordanian youths has embarked on a week-long programme of various activities and voluntary services benefitting the local community. The programme is prepared by the Ministry of Youth.

Having gathered at Al Hussein Youth Camp in Ajloun Monday, the scouts will take part in a programme that includes sports and cultural events as well as recreational functions in the camp, according to Ibrahim

Quteishat, director of youth affairs at the Ministry of Youth.

The scouts' gathering was the first part of a series of youth activities to be held in Ajloun involving young men and women from 42 youth centres in the Kingdom, Mr. Quteishat said.

As part of the programme, participants will hear lectures, take part in seminars and carry out clean-up activities around tourist and archaeological areas, he said.

WHAT'S GOING ON

★ An exhibition of paintings and sculptures by Showqi Shoukri, Mohammad Al Jalous and Rifai Al Razzan at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation 10 a.m. — 5 p.m.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

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Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Economic Forum

Has the new government new economic policy?

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

The public instinctively takes an optimistic attitude towards new governments. For this and other reasons, our reaction towards the formation of the present government was one of jubilation and optimism.

One assumes that the government is now drafting its ministerial statement. On the front of the economy and economic policy, everything is possible. The worst thing for the new government is to adopt the past policy trends or to maintain the economic policies of the previous two governments which had actually no economic policies except imposing more and more taxes.

Assuming that Mr. Taher Masi's government will not copy the past "economic policy" trends and that it is very serious about the economy and economic problems and treats them as priority issues, one ventures to make a number of remarks.

First, democracy is not any longer a merely political process or a luxury (and, admittedly, it has never been that way as a matter of principle). It has become an integral part of the economic process itself. No economic progress can be made; or thereafter sustained, in an undemocratic atmosphere. It is no coincidence that the most democratically advanced countries are simultaneously the most economically advanced ones. The completion of the democratisation process in Jordan is a pre-requisite for

economic success.

Second, the national unity is another cornerstone of progress on all fronts including the economic one. Such unity enhances the long-term prospects of stability and brightens the economic outlook. Important investment decisions can not be taken without the guaranteed continuation of this stability. Fortunately, there is a national consensus on this unity and the new government is uniquely qualified, and expected, to enhance it.

Third, an open economy based on full-fledged liberalism and economic freedom is the gateway to the economically prosperous Jordan of the future. The present atmosphere of restrictions, bureaucratic procedures and administrative complications and complex throttles innovation, the spirit of initiation and risk-taking and will abort the birth of a prosperous economy.

Fourth, the present policy of continuously overburdening the economy with more and more taxes will destroy production incentives, antagonise the private sector and eventually distort any economic policy, no matter what it is.

Fifth, the investment climate can be revolutionised in the way warranted by great economic expectations only if security and assurance are guaranteed for Jordanian and Palestinian capital committed abroad or living in exile so that such capital is induced

to flow back to Jordan and contribute to a fundamental economic revival.

And, lastly, we have the economic adjustment programme. There is no argument about this programme because its adoption and application is not a matter of choice for Jordanian policymakers and thus there is no point in asking whether it is bad or good. Nor is it sane to ask whether it has worked or not, because any positive developments, including for example plentiful rainfall, will be ascribed to it and every adverse one will be attributed to misfortune, such as the Gulf war or, in the case of inadequate rainfall, to Heaven.

However the programme is not perfect; it is an incomplete and vague prescription and therefore there are some important issues that have to be cared for. For example, it approached with wishful thinking the two very hot issues of Jordan, namely unemployment and high costs of living. It said nothing about capital formation, its financing and about the investment climate. The adoption of an economic policy with a wider horizon does not contradict the programme which can be made part of that policy. We badly need such a policy to serve as a bridge between what we are in and what we aspire for. Certainly, our aspirations go far beyond the elimination of the budget deficit and repaying our external debt.

When even bread is elusive

U.S. President George Bush, in statements to the press Monday, gave a strong indication that he might issue invitations to a Middle East peace conference and see who shows up if his secretary of state's stalled efforts are not saved and revived. "Well, I don't want to go into options but yes, I have seen suggestions of that nature (American call for peace conference) and at some point I think I owe the American people my view of the details I am not willing to discuss right now," he told White House correspondents at Kennebunkport. "(It) wouldn't bother me one bit to get up and say, 'here is what we have been trying to do.' So there is no time frame or anything of that nature, but I think there are a lot of people wondering what in the world is going on and I have invoked quiet diplomacy and the need for confidentiality, but I can't do that forever. I just simply can't do it. I owe it to the American people and I think the people around the world to say, 'hey, here is what the United States thinks is a good formula.'"

The statement is indeed encouraging, given that it comes from the president of the United States and then because it is made at this particular time when little hope is left that the Shamir government will ever change its obstinate mind about giving peace a chance.

But we have been encouraged by U.S. statement before only to be disappointed by the inaction that invariably followed. Each time an American leader attempted to put moral pressure on Israel, the Israelis found a way not only to resist it but also to make more money and extract more material support from the U.S. in its aftermath.

With this in mind, and in the belief that President Bush and Secretary of State James Baker are serious about solving the Palestinian problem this time around, we extend an invitation to Messrs. Bush and Baker to back their words with deeds and do whatever is necessary to bring the Israelis to their senses if not outright save them from themselves.

This cannot be done by not linking aid and loan guarantees to progress on the peace front. Appeasement of Israeli hardliners did not work in the past and will not work in the future. The Reagan administration tried arms twisting by withholding delivery of weapons, or by some sharp words in the press and at the Security Council, but its attempts were either few and far between or they were theatrical and unconvincing in the first place. Bringing Israel to heel cannot work by excluding the U.N., especially the Soviet Union and the European Community, from peace efforts either. If President Bush is serious about issuing invitations to a peace conference, let him have the Soviet Union and the other permanent members of the Security Council co-sponsor the invitation. If Israel, or for that matter any other country, refuses to attend, then the U.N. would be the right place to discuss what could be done in response. The U.S. Congress cannot in that event easily accuse the administration of being unilateral and one-sided.

But above all, if Israel will not listen to the voice of reason, the U.S. will have to try what has not been tried before: Withhold financial and economic aid and threaten the imposition of U.N. sanctions. Shamir & Co. will resist and stiffen their already obdurate stand on the Palestinian problem and maybe even win more support from the Israeli electorate. But the Israelis cannot do it for long: They are going to need bread to take to their Masada fortress. Without the generosity of President Bush and the American people, even the sight of bread would elude them.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i daily Tuesday accused the Americans of preparing for another massacre against the 18 million people of Iraq under the protection of the United Nations and its slogans. The paper said that the Americans and other western nations are preoccupied in fabricating lies against Iraq and accusing the country of various falsehoods, reminding us of the period that preceded the western onslaught and propaganda campaigns against the Iraqi people at the start of the Gulf crisis and during the Iranian aggression. At the same time the Americans are going ahead with their plans to starve the Iraqi people, preventing them from getting essential requirements and from standing again on their feet to reconstruct their country, the paper said. The western leaders in general and the American administration in particular are making a mockery of the western people's faculties, forcing them to believe falsehoods about Iraq and its people, the paper noted. Once the western people regain their consciousness and wake up to the truth, they will be astonished at the way they had been misled by their political leaders who had been fabricating falsehoods against the Arabs and the Iraqi people, the paper continued. It said that the present moral crisis in the West has transformed the western nations into the Moguls of the modern age, filled with malice and hatred and the lust for killing other people on earth.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily calls on the numerous private universities springing up everywhere to make sure that higher education will not be restricted to the well-to-do sector of the Jordanian population. Salah Abdul Samad says that it goes without saying that private universities will want to make profit in addition to making available higher education to those unable to enrol at government universities. But the writer notes that those students who are not able to go abroad for higher studies should not be prevented also from securing their higher education in Jordan because of high university fees. Students from various backgrounds and classes look forward to acquiring higher education in this country and should be helped to do so by fixing reasonable fees, suggests Abdul Samad. We do not wish to see universities transformed into charitable organisations, but they can at least make higher education within the reach of the majority of people, continues Abdul Samad. What is needed under the present circumstances, says the writer, is moderate fees which are instrumental in the higher education process if the new universities are really keen on contributing towards the educational development of society.

King: Ulema responsible for Muslim consensus

The following is the full text of the address by His Majesty King Hussein at the eighth general conference of the Royal Society for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al Albait Foundation) on Tuesday July 2, 1991.

In the name of God the Compassionate, the Merciful

Venerable 'ulema, members of Al Albait Foundation, honourable guests,

May God's peace and blessing be upon you. I salute you and your foundation, and I congratulate you on all your achievements. I welcome you to Jordan, which has always been happy to host the conference of your foundation. This conference is all the more conducive to happiness because we derive optimism and confidence from this major Islamic meeting. We see it as proof that, in our countries, no matter how thick the clouds may gather, they will soon clear again — that Muslims have been blessed by God with amity to heal their wounds, as well as the thought, faith, and interests that bring them back to reconciliation and accord.

Venerable 'ulema, ladies and gentlemen,

Through our nation's long history it witnessed innumerable disasters, the latest of which was named the Gulf crisis. This crisis left in its wake many material, human, and environmental losses. It produced deep psychological, intellectual, and physical wounds. The Gulf crisis divided the nation, manifested the diseases that prey on it, and lost it its dignity, and status before others. It disabused outsiders of any notions of inner strength which they may have thought us to possess.

What are we to do about this situation? Shall we remain silent to perpetuate this state of affairs, thus incurring the curse of future generations, or should we shoulder our responsibility to set our affairs in order? And how are we to achieve that? Should we content ourselves with a facelift or should we undertake the hard task of clearing the debris and rebuilding the edifice after testing the foundations to ensure their soundness?

Gentlemen,

The two generations to which members of this conference belong, which span over forty and eighty years, witnessed successive perils that threatened this nation. After confronting each one of them, we have seen it in this last chapter succumb to exhaustion and disintegration to the extent that it needs to renew its tissues and rejuvenate its cells. How is it to do that, and where should it start?

Traditionally, inter-Arab and inter-Islamic differences remained superficial. They did not reach the core and substance of the nation because the 'ulema, thinkers, and the educated distanced themselves from these differences, and were only involved in attempts to bridge the gaps or close the ranks. The worst outcome of this crisis is that some 'ulema and leaders of thought have waded, along with others into the mire of differences, thereby, wittingly or otherwise, widening and deepening these differences until they spread and

penetrated from the surface to the core, causing further disharmony among scholars and thinkers. The 'ulema did not pursue a single course. They did not agree on a consensus of righteousness to unite them. They did not meet together. Their divergent views and dispersed positions caused the chink in the nation's armour to deepen and spread until it became a large crack to the body of the nation. Discord and disunity spread among the 'ulema and even among the people, hence came all the statements, fatwas, declarations, analyses, and reports by our thinkers and scholars which you followed through the media. We were deeply saddened by all this. But another wise group in your midst distanced themselves from this strife. They spoke sparingly, and only to guide towards what is good, or they held their peace to avoid widening the chasm or fanning the fire. But now it is time for the nation to hear rational and less vociferous words from Islamic scholars. It is time for these scholars to start a new phase of forming the mind, building thought and knowledge, and correcting procedures in all posts and institutions. It is time for the nation to leave the phase of generality and ambiguity, to start one of precision and clarity of ends and means — a phase of practical organisational plans and programmes with timetables for execution, and with the ability to develop and keep abreast with new developments while preserving principles and constants. It is time for our Islamic scholars, our writers, our preachers, our lecturers, our speakers — in fact it is time for all of us to take a close look at our words, to examine

and improve them, to understand their meanings, and to employ them correctly, so that we may have a clearer understanding of events and actions, after our minds have been fogged by the ambiguity of our words, confusion over their meanings, and by the practice of using them words haphazardly.

Honourable guests,

Muslims have witnessed in the past Islamic scholars who were guiding beacons; when many among them took positions in which they feared none but God and in which they sought only the truth and justice. The scholar, gentlemen, should set an example, which he cannot achieve unless people trust him and believe his words, which should be compatible with his deeds. "Most odious in the sight of God that you should say that which you do not." It is easy to raise one's voice in scorn of others as long as the speaker does not apply his words to himself, but the effect of a scholar can only be measured by the degree to which people follow his example in thought and deed. Otherwise he cannot set an example. Any influence on people other than in thought and deed is merely a transient one which soon leaves a vacuum in people's thought and life. Islam provides the thought. Muslims provide the deeds. Their faith will not be whole until their deeds are compatible with the philosophy of Islam.

As you are aware, venerable scholars, the scholar in whom we take pride, out of a history full of luminaries, is one who seeks truth and justice. Al Kindi described such a scholar's method in his

words: "We must not shy away from finding virtue in truth and upholding it regardless of its origin, even if it comes from a distant race or an opposing nation. Nothing short of truth should satisfy him who seeks it. All are honoured by the truth."

Such a scholar would not seek to score victories nor would he take a bias because either would distract him from the truth. Such an attitude would lead him to gamsay by using untruths. How noble were the words of Imam Al Shafi' who he said: "I have never debated anyone and wished him to be wrong. Nor do I possess any knowledge which I did not wish to be possessed by all people rather than see it attributed to me." He also said of his works: "I wish that people would learn these books rather than attribute them to me."

In describing the scholar's attributes, Al Shafi' said that the scholar should not be prey to love of exposure, particularly in situations that elicit hasty statements and opinions, or those that incite discords among scholars. In doing so they would behave in a manner against which God warned, "Be not like those who became divided and created dissensions after clear proof had come to them."

Controversy among scholars would then lead to confusion among Muslims so that Islam would appear disunited and disoriented. This is particularly true when scholars, pursuing their controversies and seeking to gain the upper hand, proceed to cite from the Holy Quran and the Prophet's hadith, using contradictory interpretations of the same ayah or hadith by different scholars, and at times by the same scholars under different

circumstances.

Venerable scholars,

We are at a phase where no benefit will be gained from reviving matters that widened the gap among Muslims. This is not the time for sophistry and dialectic. We must not return to our old debates lest we become like the people of Byzantium who were distracted by their debate from the danger facing them until they were taken unaware. Let us concentrate on understanding what has happened through an objective study which would not reopen the wounds but broaden our horizons for calm reflection and lead us to the truth about ourselves, the nature of our relations, and our orders, so that we can rebuild our lives on the basis of truth, righteousness, justice, and the good of the nation. We must be scientific, aware of the spirit of our times, and we must contribute to shaping civilisation. We must warn the whole nation of the plots and intrigues being hatched against it, and we must concentrate our attention on confronting the danger that faces us all.

Venerable scholars,

I repeat my welcome and my thanks to you, and I pray to God to grant us success in gaining His pleasure. May God open our hearts to what is right and guide us to the path of righteousness. May God grant us forgiveness and to Him we commend our duty.

May God's peace and blessings be with you.

U.S. embarrassed by Kuwait

By Alan Elsner
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Persistent reports of human rights abuses, a lack of enthusiasm for democracy and an apparent disregard for the environment have turned Kuwait after the Gulf war into a major embarrassment to the United States, analysts say.

But they say these problems mask even deeper splits within Kuwaiti society and the Bush administration is risking more than embarrassment by trying to ignore them.

"Kuwait is a very substantial embarrassment to the United States. Everything that could have gone wrong since the ruling family returned has gone wrong," said Adam Garfinkel, a Middle East analyst with the Foreign Policy Research Institute.

Kuwait's announcement on Tuesday that it would end martial law on Wednesday and turn trials of alleged collaborators over to civilian courts was likely to provide some temporary relief from criticism both for the Kuwaiti government and Washington.

However, opposition leaders said the change was unlikely to make any real difference either to the strict controls placed on political life or the conduct of the trials.

A list of what in Washington are seen as Kuwait shortcomings would begin with reports by human rights organisations of widespread killings, torture and deportation of alleged Iraqi collaborators after the restoration of Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah following the Gulf war ceasefire last February.

It would focus on the treatment of the 200,000-strong Palestinian minority, blamed by the Kuwaitis for allying themselves with Baghdad during the seven months of

Iraqi rule.

The list would highlight the conduct of military trials where 29 people have been condemned to death in proceedings denounced across the world as cursory and unfair.

Then there was the delay in announcing dates for elections, now tentatively set for October 1992, and the fact that the Emir is backing on the issue of votes for women.

Lastly, critics cite the Kuwaiti authorities' slowness in restoring basic services and the relatively low priority they appear to have assigned to putting out the fires in some 600 oil wells left ablaze by the Iraqis, over 500 of which are still burning.

"So much of what the Kuwaitis have done is contrary to what President (George) Bush's new world order stands for," said David Scheffer of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

"I'm talking about the development of democratic pluralism, a respect for the rights of individuals and minorities and a concern for the environment," he said.

Hillary Mann, a research fellow for the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, who recently returned from a two-month visit to Kuwait, said the problems ran much deeper than this.

"The Al Sabah family has totally lost legitimacy. It has no real popular support any more and it has generated a perception that it is weak and challengeable," she said.

"There are clear warning signs that the government is sitting on a powderkeg."

She said there were similarities between the situation in Kuwait and that of Lebanon on the eve of

its 16-year civil war which tore the structure of that country apart and destabilised the entire Middle East.

In both cases, a central government lost authority and legitimacy in an atmosphere of rising religious and ethnic tensions. In Kuwait, as was the case in Lebanon, all sides are well armed with weapons left behind by the fleeing Iraqis.

Faced with all this, the Bush administration has bent over backwards not to criticise Kuwait, issuing only occasional statements of mild regret.

For instance last week when eight more people received the death penalty, the State Department urged the Kuwaitis to review the sentences meticulously but did not join class for them to be set aside.

Bush sent Secretary of State James Baker to Kuwait last April to express some of Washington's concerns about the human rights situation there but has since refrained from taking any public action.

The analysts said the United States ought to be speaking out more vigorously for democratic values.

"The United States ought to be pressing for decency first of all and then for democracy," said Garfinkel. "But the idea of democracy annoys Saudi Arabia and Bush has always been very anxious not to annoy the Saudis."

Mann's conclusions were similar. "We've decided apparently to hold hands with the Al Sabah family and with the Saudis. That policy is not sustainable in a situation where the ruling family is losing control of the situation," she said.

Problems without solutions

By Dr. Abdul Rahim Maibasi

IN the Arab World, we have many problems. For a better understanding of these problems, the following is an attempt at classifying them into more comprehensible and manageable categories.

1. Problems with no solutions or "PNS." These are problems one should try to forget and submerge every time they happen to surface into one's concerned awareness. They are characterised by being deeply rooted in our culture, and probably in our DNA. They are chronic diseases whose chances of cure even a genetic optimist can become pessimistic about. Any attempt at tackling these problems is a mere waste of time and energy. A representative sample of PNS is our preoccupation with sex, and a parallel nihilistic attitude towards life.

2. Unsolvability problems, or "NSP." These are usually major problems that form the basis of most of our other problems. They are the ones we cannot solve, mainly because we are afraid to solve. They are taboo issues guarded by primitive cats ready to scratch any instigator. Problems in this category are usually closely related to the ones in the first category, or are a logical result of them. In this category you will find the problem of population overgrowth.

3. Solvable problems that should not be solved, "SPNS." These are real problems that we train ourselves to look at as simple irritants, and do not attempt to seriously and earnestly solve. They are the kind that, if solved, will create real problems that we always sought to avoid. After all, they are the problems we have

accepted in order to sidetrack other problems that we could not originally manage. In this category sits the problem of our national debt.

4. Solvable problems that cannot be solved, "SPCS." Though it looks very strange, these problems are very real. Think of problems like corruption when you think of this category.

"No matter what classification one chooses, one cannot fully understand the unsolvability of our problems unless one can bring himself to believe that, for cultural reasons, the majority of us do not necessarily differentiate between fact and fantasy."

5. Solvable problems that are not solved, "SPANS." These are simple and small problems that we can solve, but that we do not solve, because we think we can easily solve them at any time, or because we think that time can solve them for us. In this category lies, will most of our problems.

6. Preventable problems, "PP." These are nonexistent problems that we help realise and vitalise, prior to adding them, as new items, to the ones in the previous category. By the way, many of the problems in the aforementioned categories were originally resident in this compartment. Pollution lies here permanently.

7. Problems for others to solve, "POS." These are our biggest problems. These are problems that we do not like to solve ourselves, and insist that others should solve for us.

Here you find all our political problems.

This is only one classification, built mainly on the factor of solvability. Different classifications built on either the psychological origins of these problems, or their historical-cultural background do exist.

However, no matter what classification one chooses, one cannot fully understand the unsolvability of our problems unless one can bring himself to believe that, for cultural reasons, the majority of us do not necessarily differentiate between fact and fantasy. The real and the surreal blend so easily together in our life, that most of our problems go out of real focus and therefore do not fall on factual retinae.

It is not surprising, therefore, to notice that most of our problems are either in, or shifting to, the non-solvable categories. This is so because an increasing number of our people are led to believe that our problems are created only because we try to solve them. The same people believe that efforts made for solving these problems are fruitless, and that it is much better to spare our time and energy for a more rewarding investment. To their mind, all our attention should be directed towards preparing ourselves for another world, the ultimate world, where there is only happiness, and no problems to solve at all!

8. Major problems that should be solved, "MPS." These are problems that should be solved, before other problems can be solved. In this category you find the same list as in the first category.

Due to proof reading errors, this article appeared distorted in yesterday's Jordan Times.

Toxic imperialists dump on Third World

By Neil de Massee

IN A FIELD in the remote rural district of Almadén, Spain, 11,000 tonnes of the world's industrial garbage lie rotting in a giant pit. The wastes — which include organic mercury compounds, some of the most toxic polyethylene liner to breach before they can infiltrate underground aquifers, poisoning the region's only supply of fresh water. The adjacent El Entredicho reservoir, which provides drinking and irrigation water to nearby villages, has already experienced a mass die-off of fish.

The wastes have been in this landfill since January. Before that, they were simply dumped above ground, where they sat in corroding barrels whose lids occasionally popped off, spilling their deadly contents onto the landscape.

In the lexicon of the international waste trade, this is known as "recycling."

By any other name... "Almost every waste trade scheme that we see now uses a term like 'recycling,'" says Greenpeace organizer Jim Vallette. "Or 'residues-to-electricity' — a lot of them pose as electricity projects. Very benign-sounding names. But the reality is the same: burning U.S. and European wastes elsewhere to make an easy buck."

Vallette is one of the staffers at Greenpeace's International Waste Trade Project who spend their days tracking — and battling — the growing world market in toxic wastes. The fifth edition of their yearly waste trade inventory details over 1,000 attempts to export tens of millions of tonnes of industrialised countries' waste to be burned, buried or otherwise dumped in the Third World.

The project's genesis dates back to the worldwide media attention drawn by the infamous "garbage barge" that wandered the globe in search of a dumpsite for its cargo of household waste from Japan. A few months later, the freighter *Khan Sea* spent 27 months on a similar journey with a hold full of ash from Philadelphia's garbage incinerator, turned down by 15 countries on five continents, the *Khan Sea* is believed to have dumped its cargo into the Indian Ocean.

In working to squelch these well-publicised schemes, Greenpeace activists "realised that there was a growing effort by waste traders to bring industry's wastes to foreign lands," says Vallette. "We pieced together a picture of dozens of schemes to ship wastes from the North to the South and from the West to the East. And that was when Greenpeace decided to launch a campaign against what we began calling the international waste trade."

While there are no hard figures, estimates of the amount of hazardous waste generated each year in the United States run into the billions of tonnes. Of this, the vast majority has always been disposed of at home, with a smattering destined for dumping in other countries, primarily across the Canadian border.

Trash for cash

But as the Environmental Protection Agency, in response to growing environmental activism in the United States, tightened restrictions on the dumping of hazardous waste at home, it also created new economic incentives for using the Third World as a dump site. Even with shipping costs and payments to the receiving countries, U.S. firms suddenly found, dumping wastes overseas could save up to 90 per cent over using the few U.S. dumpsites that could meet the tightened EPA standards. Perhaps more importantly, it offered freedom from the threat of liability: Once a load of waste was successfully exported, there was no longer any threat that the originating company would be forced to pay for cleanup costs or reimburse victims of the pollution.

As a result, the mid-1980s saw an ever-increasing flotilla of freighters and barges carting off trash from the industrialised world to Third World nations. Notices of intent to export hazardous waste filed with the EPA leaped from 12 in 1980 to 522 in the first half of 1988, as established waste disposal firms were joined by international entrepreneurs who jumped at the opportunity to make, as one environmental activist observed, "fabulous profits without the risk of drug smuggling or running guns."

This boom was aided and abetted, say waste trade activists, by EPA regulations that provided easy loopholes for export schemes. While technically the EPA must authorise hazardous waste shipments, the agency's regulations allow not classified as

"hazardous," including municipal incinerator ash, household trash, infectious wastes and raw sewage sludge.

These are far from harmless substances, environmental activists stress — it is estimated that every tonne of garbage generated in the United States contains about 20 pounds of toxics. "(Incinerator) ash is really bad stuff — mercury, cadmium, lead," says Mike Williams of the Citizens Clearinghouse on Hazardous Waste. "And every time they test it, it comes out to a level that equals hazardous waste. But if the EPA treated it as hazardous waste, there'd be no place to put it, because there's not that many hazardous waste facilities."

Furthermore, even officially "hazardous" waste shipments require only that the EPA notify receiving countries, of the export proposal. And with the money available for offering one's country as a disposal site, a mere "notification" may not carry much weight with cash-starved Third World governments, especially if corrupt officials can be bribed to look the other way. In one notorious instance, the tiny West African nation of Guinea-Bissau was offered a sum of money greater than its entire GNP in exchange for accepting shipments of toxic waste from Europe.

But even multimillion-dollar bribes were not enough to convince Guinea-Bissau to accept shipments openly labelled as toxic waste; indeed, says Vallette, it is generally "political suicide" for a Third World government to be caught selling its land as a dump site. And so waste traders have come up with a raft of ingenious pseudonyms for their wares, such as:

• A West Coast firm approached the government of the Marshall Islands with an offer of 17,000 tonnes of Seattle household garbage, which the firm proposed for use as landfill to defend against rising sea levels caused by global warming. When this plan fell through, the firm tried instead to pawn off a load of used tyres for use as a reef.

• At one point, the *Khan Sea* was set to unload its cargo of ash in Haiti as "fertilizer," until Greenpeace intervened. In an attempt to prove the sceptical locals that the ash was safe, a company representative grabbed a handful and ate it.

• When the Panamanian government rejected a load of Philadelphia ash palmed off as road fill — after having been tipped off by Greenpeace about the ash's toxicity — the Norwegian shipper hauled it off to the West African nation of Guinea for use as "raw building materials" for cinder blocks. The ash was finally returned to Norway after an unappreciative Guinean government arrested the Norwegian honorary consul general who had helped broker the deal and threatened to hold him until the waste was removed.

But Greenpeace activists soon discovered that such shipments were only the tip of the iceberg compared to a more entrenched, insidious form of toxic imperialism: "recycling" plants that continue to process some of the most deadly substances produced by industry in the West.

Heavy metal wastes — primarily lead, mercury and cadmium — have been produced in prodigious amounts by Western industry since the late 1800s, and have

been shipped to overseas smelters for almost as long. Today, they are one of the United States' top exports, with regular shipments of lead-laden used car batteries to Brazil helping make that country the United States' second-biggest waste trading partner. In Brazil, lead and zinc wastes have become such an important commodity that the government has actually lowered tariffs to encourage their import.

Despite recycling's clean image, these plants are no solution to the problem of industrial waste disposal, say environmentalists. Even the most efficient metal-recycling plants can't reclaim 100 per cent of the metal wastes, and the remaining toxic sludge must be dumped, often under less than ecologically sound conditions. This sludge also contains whatever dioxins, heavy metals and the like that were contained in the original waste material.

The trade in heavy metal wastes has increased as more and more smelters in the United States have refused to accept metals for recycling, particularly "dirty" wastes that contain high levels of extremely toxic organic compounds. As a result of tightened EPA regulations, half of all U.S. lead smelters were shut down between 1980 and 1986. According to Greenpeace, smelters in countries like Brazil, India, China and Indonesia then picked up the slack.

The latest "sham recycler" to draw the project's ire is the facility run by Minas de Almadén y Arraganes S.A., the Spanish state-run agency that is the world's largest supplier of mercury. In 1980, Minas de Almadén began offering to process industrial mercury wastes if the exporting companies would pledge to buy the reclaimed mercury. Dozens of companies in the United States and Europe — among them the new Jersey-based Cosan and Troy Chemicals and the European subsidiary of battery giant Duracell — took up the offer.

There was only one problem: No such recycling facility existed. Attempts were made to build one between 1984 and 1986, but a series of explosions and worker health problems caused Minas de Almadén to abandon the project. As a study by the Spanish national scientific institute described the situation in 1988, "the mercury wastes treatment plant does not permit the treatment of any type of waste that is found in Almadén at the present time."

Nonetheless, throughout this period the Spanish government was claiming that the recycling plant was up and running. And U.S. companies continued to certify to the EPA that the wastes would be "processed... for recovery of the mercury metal contained."

But the wastes continued to be stored exactly as they had been all along: in corroding barrels that leaked their contents onto the soil so freely that digging in the gravel would produce a pool of liquid mercury. Some wastes, such as used batteries, were dumped directly onto the ground.

When Greenpeace began to investigate, Minas de Almadén hastily dug a new, "secure landfill" in a geologically unstable site; the barrels were simply crushed and earth spread over them. "As a result," Greenpeace's report notes, "unknown mixtures and reactions are likely to occur with unknown results."

At the very least, these reactions are expected to eat through the polyethylene film that is the only protection against mercury contamination of the groundwater.

The effects of mercury poisoning run the gamut of horrors: nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, bloody diarrhoea, kidney damage, inflammation of mouth and gums, loosening of teeth, as well as loss of hearing, sight, smell and taste, and muscle spasms, personality changes, depression, nervousness, insanity and death. Deaths of fish and livestock and health problems among Almadén workers have already been reported.

What lies ahead may be pre-saged by the experience of Thor Chemical's mercury waste recycling plant in Cato Ridge, South Africa, where two Thor workers reportedly "went mad" from mercury vapour poisoning after handling industrial wastes exported by American Cyanamid. A 1989 sample of muddy water from a river nearby the Thor plant revealed some of the highest levels of mercury pollution ever recorded.

"All hell would break loose if something like this were found in the U.S.," Michigan State University mercury expert Frank D'Amico told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch at the time. "This is gross contamination."

The EPA talks back

"Everyone thinks that waste export is such a big deal," says EPA international trade staffer Wendy Griener. "There's this great perception that Third World countries are being dumped on. I'll tell you: we have no evidence."

Griener argues that many of the most notorious schemes, such as the garbage barge, are unregulated cargo and so not representative of any illicit trade. In any case, she says, when the United States approves legislation ratifying the recent Basel Convention on international waste trade, this type of waste will require notification. As for reports of lax standards at Third World facilities, says Griener, "We don't regulate facilities overseas; that's a matter of sovereignty."

Griener also dismisses Greenpeace's statistics as inflated. "If you look at their toxic waste inventory, a hell of a lot of those — and I happen to know, because I get the notices — a lot of those exports are very legitimate. Notice has been given, consent has been given, and it's going so that we don't have a throw it in a landfill here, and some commodity can be extracted from it."

Vallette is unfazed by such arguments. Implementation of the Basel Convention — a compromise measure passed by an international conference in 1989 after the United States torpedoed a stronger proposal — will indeed require the regulation of incinerator ash. But the regulations proposed by the Bush administration would, he notes, still exempt both sewage sludge and low-level radioactive waste, as well as many scrap metal exports, for the sake of "recycling."

Two other recently introduced bills hold somewhat more promise: Rep. Mike Synar, D-Okla., and Rep. Howard Wolpe, D-Mich., have proposed requiring countries receiving U.S. wastes to meet this country's environmental

standards; and Rep. Edolphus Towns, D-N.Y., with the backing of the Congressional Black Caucus, has proposed a total ban on toxic waste exports.

As far as "beneficial reasons" are concerned, Vallette responds, "80 per cent of the wastes are going to Canada; it's going to landfills or incinerators, so it's not avoiding disposal. For the rest, a lot of it is going smelters, but when you look at the track record of smelters, particularly in Brazil or Taiwan, there's a horrible legacy for workers and the people who live around the smelters. The major lead battery importer in Brazil is an Italian company called Tonali, and workers there have lead levels in their blood exceeding hazardous limits. In fact, the workers went on strike earlier this year because of the contamination of their blood."

"So if that's beneficial use..." Vallette pauses. "It's tough to extract lead from people's blood for beneficial use."

In nearly every country where Greenpeace has uncovered waste trade schemes, environmental groups — such as Oikos in Brazil and Earthlife Africa in South Africa — have sprung up to pressure their governments to have the wastes returned to their producers in Western countries. In some instances, local trade unions, such as the Congress of South African Trade Unions, have joined in opposing waste trade schemes as a threat to worker safety.

As a result, some headway has been made against "further use" schemes. American Cyanamid has apparently stopped shipping mercury wastes to Cato Ridge, and both South Africa and Peru have abandoned plans to build giant waste incinerators to handle wastes from the West.

And in response to the watered-down Basel Convention, the Organisation for African Unity passed its own Bamako Convention, which bans not only all waste imports, but ocean dumping and the import of products banned for use in the country of manufacture. Vallette calls this far-reaching measure "pretty amazing." But if some of the world is now off-limits to toxic exports, the waste trade continues unabated to much of Latin America and Eastern Europe, which now receive the lion's share of waste shipments.

As long as toxic waste is treated as a commodity of the world market, the Greenpeace activists stress, it will continue to be dumped on those with the least political and economic power. Through public protest and exposure of waste trade schemes, they hope to close the "safety valve" that the non-industrialised world has provided for U.S. and European wastes.

Only then, says Vallette, will the search for solutions move "upstream" from how to dispose of the wastes to how to keep them from being produced in the first place. "You don't need mercury-based fungicide to keep mildew out of your paint," he says. "There's no reason for these corporations to use mercury or lead or any of these basic toxic elements that have helped lower the IQ of people around the world and caused enormous hardships."

Reprinted from *The Guardian* a New York-based radical news-weekly.

Bush threatens to go public

(Continued from page 1)

Minister Ariel Sharon was dedicating a new neighbourhood and Defence Minister Moshe Arens a new health clinic, both in West Bank Jewish settlements.

Mr. Bush indicated the United States would not condition further aid to absorb Soviet immigrants in Israel to a cessation of settlement building. But he urged Israelis to "do what you can to see that the policy of settlement after settlement is not continued. It is counterproductive."

The Haaretz newspaper said the housing ministry had plans to move a total of another 500,000 Israelis to the occupied territories.

It said the housing was being

planned by a new unofficial body established by Mr. Sharon, called the "council for planning and construction" in the West Bank. Mr. Sharon's spokesman Shaya Segal was quoted as saying "we are planning construction and expansion everywhere there are Jewish settlements."

Mr. Bush reiterated on Monday a standing U.S. policy which holds that settlement building in these areas are "counterproductive to" Middle East efforts.

Mr. Bush was quoted recently as telling an American-Jewish delegation that as a result of the settlements dispute, he could not support giving Israel new loan guarantees worth \$10 billion to house a flood of new Soviet emigrants.

Bilbeisi plans to sue Time

(Continued from page 1)

photograph published by Time. The photograph showed Mr. Bilbeisi at a nightclub chatting with a European woman and a belly-dancer in the background.

"First of all, Time says the photograph was taken in 1979, while it was actually taken in 1971," said Mr. Bilbeisi. "The woman in the photo was my secretary, who left my employment in 1971. The only reason I can think of why Time said it was in 1979 is that it wanted to discredit me in front of my own family. I got married in 1977."

"In fact, I have every reason to believe that this photograph was stolen from my office in London by a lawyer associated with Lloyds," added Mr. Bilbeisi, who lives in Amman.

Speaking to the Jordan Times at his mansion in Abdoun, Mr. Bilbeisi said he was "totally distressed" after seeing the Time article.

Countering the allegation that he was acting as a "respectable front," for BCCI, Mr. Bilbeisi said neither he nor any of his immediate family was a member of the board of directors of the bank. "Nor have I received any kickbacks or dubious facilities from the bank," he said.

On the contrary, he said, "I have filed at least two cases against BCCI — of civil theft and vanishing transfers — and I am still pursuing one of them."

"However, it is not for me to judge BCCI," Mr. Bilbeisi said. "My connections with the bank are strictly limited to my account."

According to Mr. Bilbeisi, 60, "the only truth in the Time story is that the American Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has filed a case against me."

But, he added, "actually there is no case. I have not evaded any American income tax as alleged. To report that IRS is investigating me and to give unfounded allegations about me and my business clearly point to a dedicated campaign to discredit me and undermine my claims with Lloyds of London."

The IRS investigation stems from charges that Coffee Inc., a Miami, Florida-based firm owned by Mr. Bilbeisi, had violated American coffee quota restrictions.

months after the American authorities lifted quota restrictions in February 1986," he said.

Also, "how can I offer bribes worth \$4.5 million (as said in Time) while the cost of the entire consignment was around \$3 million?" he asked.

The documents include a Guatemalan court ruling which found Mr. Bilbeisi was an unwitting victim of a coffee smuggling racket and acquitted him.

In any event, Mr. Bilbeisi said, the case is between the IRS and himself. "Even before the court hears the case and reaches a decision, it seems, Time has tried and convicted me," he said.

"I met with IRS people in London and they asked me to turn a state witness against BCCI." I knew very little of the bank itself. How could I testify to something I don't know?"

Mr. Bilbeisi categorically challenged the Time assertion that he was an arms dealer.

"I have acted as a commission agent in a deal involving the sale of diesel engines for tanks," he said. "Is this an arms deal?"

Another deal he was involved in and referred to by Time is the sale of three helicopters to Guatemala. Mr. Bilbeisi rejected a charge that the aircraft was military and that their prices were "inflated."

"One of the helicopters was an ambulance and the other two were passenger aircraft for VIPs," Mr. Bilbeisi said.

"There are documents to prove that the consignment was intercepted by Dutch authorities on a dubious tip-off that the three were military and it was found that none of them had any military nature whatsoever."

Mr. Bilbeisi also dismissed as "groundless" an assertion that the Guatemalan government was seeking his extradition from Jordan in an investigation related to the helicopter deal.

Mr. Bilbeisi contacted Time were immediately after seeing the June 24 story and refuted the contents. In turn, Time first offered to send one of the writers of the article to interview him, but later said it was unable to do so since the writer was otherwise recalled home from Abu Dhabi.

Mr. Bilbeisi said his contacts with Time were continuing, but gave no indication that he could be dissuaded from going to court.

"I refuse to be subjected to this kind of attack and I will ensure that justice is carried out," he said.

Lebanese army

(Continued from page 1)

dead included 15 Palestinians and three Lebanese soldiers. Forty Palestinians, mostly civilians, and 17 soldiers were among the wounded.

Zeid Wehbeh, Mr. Arafat's representative in Lebanon, earlier called for a ceasefire and talks with the government.

"(It) is a massacre against the Palestinian people... we demand a ceasefire first and then dialogue to discuss all details. Otherwise we will defend ourselves," he told Reuters.

"If the military pressure continues, every Palestinian woman and child will defend themselves and the camps," Mr. Wehbeh added.

At the height of the fighting shells crashed down at a rate of up to 20 a minute. Intermittent shelling and machinegun fire could be heard from Sidon after Mr. Murr said the army had won.

Civilians in Sidon and the refugee camps of Mieh Mieh and 'Ain Al Hilweh, which house about 65,000 refugees, huddled in shelters during the battles. Hundreds risked their lives to flee the area in terror.

Troops bombarded Mieh Mieh and came under fire from PLO positions nearby. Witnesses said a few shells hit Mieh Mieh.

The PLO asked friendly groups in Sidon to intercede on its behalf. PLO headquarters in Tunis sent a message to the Arab League in Cairo asking it to intervene to stop the fighting.

Algerian

(Continued from page 1)

The legislative balloting was postponed until later this year, and the government has pledged an early presidential election, which ordinarily would be held in 1993.

The FIS took control of a majority of Algeria's municipal councils in local elections last year — the country's first-ever multiparty elections. Some analysts have suggested the front was losing confidence in its prospects for winning the parliamentary elections and thus chose to disrupt the timetable.

Mr. Madani "is a liar who lives only by and for lies," Mr. Ghazali told Algerian reporters. He also said recent violence underscored the need for the state of emergency, imposed June 5 by President Chadli Benjedid.

Inspectors

(Continued from page 1)

the equipment which experts say could be used to produce weapons-grade enriched uranium.

It sent Mr. Blix, Mr. Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N. Special Commission set up under the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire to scrap Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, and U.N. Under-Secretary General Yasushi Akashi to Baghdad to take the message to the Iraqi government.

It warned that "any recurrence of non-compliance would have serious consequences."

Mr. Ekeus, speaking before Mr. Blix and U.N. chief inspector David Kay returned from their site visit, said the three U.N. troubleshooters would leave Baghdad early Wednesday.

He and Mr. Akashi just had talks with Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi.

But after Mr. Blix returned the three prepared for further talks with Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein Khudayer.

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Financial Markets

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U.S. Dollar for International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date: 7/1/1991	Tokyo Close Date: 7/1/1991
Sterling Pound	1.6072	1.6133
Deutsche Mark	1.8307	1.8257
Swiss Franc	1.5685	1.5643
French Franc	6.1985	6.1828
Japanese Yen	138.45	138.50
European Currency Unit	1.1243	1.1257

USD per STD

European Opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.93	6.06	6.37	6.75
Sterling Pound	11.25	11.00	10.81	10.62
Deutsche Mark	8.93	9.12	9.18	9.31
Swiss Franc	7.75	7.75	7.81	7.56
French Franc	9.56	9.56	9.56	9.56
Japanese Yen	7.50	7.53	7.50	7.43
European Currency Unit	9.87	9.87	10.00	9.87

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	368.25	7.00	Silver	4.44	.10

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.688	.690
Sterling Pound	1.1065	1.1120
Deutsche Mark	.3760	.3779
Swiss Franc	.4388	.4410
French Franc	.1111	.1117
Japanese Yen	.4967	.4992
Dutch Guilder	.3339	.3356
Swedish Krona	.1042	.1047
Italian Lira	.0506	.0509
Belgian Franc	.1840	.1849

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8050	1.8300
Lebanese Lira	.0755	.0770
Saudi Riyal	.1830	.1840
Kuwaiti Dinar	.1860	.1870
Omani Riyal	.1850	.1860
Egyptian Pound	.1770	.1780
UAE Dirham	.1780	.1790
Greek Drachma	.3430	.3495
Cypriot Pound	1.3790	1.3990

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Markets

Index	30/6/1991 Close	1/7/1991 Close
All-Share	112.55	112.85
Banking Sector	107.05	107.19
Insurance Sector	118.03	118.15
Industry Sector	118.34	118.85
Services Sector	129.80	130.69

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Stocks closed easier following Monday's 818-point leap. The Nikkei Index slipped 113.00 points to 23,995.76.

SYDNEY — Prices rose to an eight-week high after strong gains on overseas markets. The All Ordinaries closed at 1543.2, up 21.2 points.

HONG KONG — Stocks ended higher but off day's highs after advances were trimmed by profit-taking. The Hang Seng was up 34.06 points to 3,772.91 at the close.

SINGAPORE — Shares closed mixed after profit-taking pared early gains in quiet trading. The Straits Times gained 13.40 points to close at 1,512.13.

BOMBAY — Export-oriented shares rallied but others fell after Monday's devaluation of the rupee. The Bombay Stock Exchange Index closed 18.44 points up at 1,293.67.

Bid to tax Queen Elizabeth sparks right royal row

LONDON (R) — Queen Elizabeth, the world's richest woman, is facing the prospect of being asked to pay tax on her substantial private wealth.

A bill calling for her to pay tax — to be introduced in Britain's parliament Wednesday by Mr. Simon Hughes, a member of the minority Liberal Democrat Party — has little chance of becoming law.

But the issue of whether the queen should pay the taxman like the majority of her subjects has brought the question of the royal fortune sharply into the public eye.

Even fervent royalists concede there is a case for taxing the queen's private wealth, variously estimated at between £1.2 and £6.7 billion (\$1.9 and \$10.7 billion).

Columnist Sir John Junor, knighted by the queen after his long editorship of the fiercely pro-monarchist Sunday Express, wrote a piece in the equally royalist Mail on Sunday newspaper headlined "Pay up, ma'am."

"The queen is far too intelligent to be unaware of the increasing public disquiet over the fact that on her private fortune she pays no income tax," said Mr. Junor.

According to the Sunday Times, advisers have warned the queen that she might have to sell Balmoral, the royal family home in Scotland, if she has to pay tax.

A Buckingham Palace spokesman said he was unaware of any such warning having been issued in public.

Had it been made in private? "It might. But we are in the realms of speculation," he said.

Queen Elizabeth has a breathtaking fortune including tens of thousands of acres (hectares) of land and a massive portfolio of shares.

She has several hundred Leonardo da Vinci drawings, dozens of Dutch and Italian paintings, antiques which require a 75-volume catalogue, a 330-volume stamp collection and



Queen Elizabeth

jewels that include more than 20 tiaras.

Under an agreement last July, the queen receives an inflation-proof income from the state until the year 2000. For 1991 the payment is £7.9 million (\$12.6 million).

The money is to cover the cost of her official duties and most goes in paying wages of countries and royal servants.

It does not cover the upkeep of royal palaces or the royal yacht Britannia, the queen's flight of aircraft or the royal train.

It is generally assumed that the British royal family has never paid taxes, but author Philip Hall says in a book to be published later this year that King George VI secured tax immunity from the government only as recently as the 1930s.

Opinion polls have shown that as many as eight out of 10 people believe the queen should pay tax on her private income.

But there is a staunch ramp of royalists who believe the suggestion is little short of lese majeste.

As novelist Terence Blacker put it: "The queen doesn't pay tax for the same reason as she doesn't fill in the census form, vote in elections or take her driving test. She's above such things."

Study expects zero growth in world economy this year

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Recession in the Soviet Union and East Europe was the biggest factor in the stagnation in the world's economy this year, according to a U.N. report released Tuesday.

The U.N. world economic survey predicts only a modest recovery in 1992, with worldwide economic growth of about two per cent.

"The world's economy is not likely to grow at all in 1991" largely due to the plunge in the former East Bloc countries, whose economies declined six per cent in 1990 and are projected to drop 10 per cent this year, the survey said.

The authors of the survey urged the major industrial dem-

ocracies to increase their output growth, currently held to two or three per cent, to resume "their historic role as an engine of world economic growth."

Without more output and spending by the United States and other major industrial nations, "the more dynamic international economic environment needed for a shorter adjustment in the developing countries and a less costly transition in eastern Europe and the Soviet Union will not materialise," it said.

Although the Gulf crisis sapped the economies of Iraq, Kuwait, Jordan and a few other countries, it had little overall effect on the world's fortunes, according to the survey by the U.N. Department of Economic

and Social Affairs.

Crude oil production rose in 1990 to 60.3 million barrels per day, the highest since 1979. The survey predicts that increased demand may result in the oil market tightening in the future.

Growth in the developing world slowed for the third year in a row to three per cent, and actually sank into minus territory in Latin America.

The sub-Saharan Africa, the population growth rate outstripped the economic growth rate, except in Nigeria. For Africa as a whole, a 1990 growth rate of 3.4 per cent barely kept ahead of the birth rate.

South Korea and Malaysia, with growth rates of about 10 per cent in 1990, led south and east

Asia to a regional expansion of over six per cent collectively.

Except for oil, commodity prices fell to their lowest levels since the depression of the 1930s, measured in terms of their ability to purchase manufactured exports of the industrial countries. Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union saw the worst economic plunge since World War II, with the Soviet Union experiencing a four per cent fall in output, with the rate accelerating by the end of the year.

The eastern European nations as a whole shrank by 11 per cent. Poland, Bulgaria and the former East Germany suffered recessions on the order of 13 per cent. Romania, almost 11 per cent and Hungary, over five per cent.

Nuevo Sol replaces inti in Peru

LIMA (AP) — Peruvians woke up to a new currency for the second time in six years Monday.

As a government decree changed the inflation-ridden "inti" to the "nuevo sol." But the actual banknotes and coins won't start circulating until at least October.

When the government estimates it will be able to cover the cost of launching the new currency. The nuevo sol, which currently fetches \$1.20, is equivalent to a million intis.

Prior to the changeover, the dollar bought 840,000 intis on the street exchange market. Newspapers and television and radio stations have waged a campaign to explain the conversion to Peruvians.

The move will simplify accounting by dropping six zeros from the inti. The move to change the currency, the seventh in Peru's 170-year history, was also designed to counter the effects of inflation. The inti was introduced in 1985 at the end of former president Fernando Belaunde's tenure.

Saudi Rajhi banking corp doubles capital

MANAMA, Bahrain (R) — Al Rajhi Banking and Investment Corp of Saudi Arabia said Tuesday it had doubled its paid-in capital to 1.5 billion riyals (\$400 million) by issuing new shares free of charge to shareholders.

The Riyadh-based commercial bank said it had granted 7.5 million shares at the face value of 100 riyals (\$27) to Saudi shareholders, paid for out of accumulated company profits of more than two billion riyals (\$533 million).

Rajhi, once the kingdom's biggest money changer, converted in 1988 into a commercial bank following Islamic banking practices, which ban the payment and receipt of interest.

Share department manager, Sheikh Abdul Rahman Mobammad Al Dousari, told Reuters by telephone from Riyadh the firm, a joint stock company, had a huge cash liquidity and wanted to grow the business with it.

"Because of huge accumulated profits for the past three years and the company's desire to boost

its operations, it has decided to double its capital by granting new shares to current shareholders," Sheikh Dousari said.

The company made an initial public offering of 7.5 million shares worth 750 million riyals (\$200 million) when it became a commercial bank in 1988.

Sheikh Dousari said the company's total accumulated profits since then had exceeded two billion riyals (\$533 million), providing a strong base for further expansion.

The firm said in a statement it had posted net profits of 1,087 billion riyals (\$290 million) in calendar 1990, up from 1,027 billion riyals (\$274 million) the year before.

Total assets rose to 18.5 billion riyals (\$5 billion) in 1990 from 16.8 billion riyals (\$4.7 billion) the previous year.

It said it would distribute 150 million riyals (\$40 million) in cash dividends to shareholders in 1990, unchanged from a year ago.

Iran denies plans for monetary reforms

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iranian Vice President Hassan Habibi Tuesday dismissed the central bank chief's predictions that radical monetary reforms were imminent.

Tehran radio reported. Mr. Habibi said that gold will continue to guarantee the value of the Iranian rial and a complex, multiple exchange rate for the currency would remain in force.

The radio report, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Mr. Habibi as saying plans to set a single, floating exchange rate would not be "applied in the near future."

Mr. Habibi's remarks at his weekly press briefing shot down comments made Thursday by Mr. Mohammad Hossein Adeli, head of the central bank.

Mr. Adeli had said the rial would be taken off the gold standard, and in future would have a floating rate backed by local production. It is not clear what he meant.

Mr. Adeli had also said that the three-tier exchange rate for the rial would be abolished.

Iran uses various exchange rates which are used for different types of transactions.

The official value of the rial is pegged at about 70 to the U.S. dollar. But this bears no relation to its real economic value.

American states struggle with budgets

MAINE (AP) — Maine's failure to enact a spending plan forced a shutdown of non-essential state services Monday, and a similar crisis loomed in Connecticut.

At least seven other states also entered a new fiscal year Monday without a spending plan in place: California, Pennsylvania, Ohio, North Carolina, Illinois, Louisiana and Massachusetts.

And in one state that had adopted a timely budget, Iowa, Governor Terry Branstad Monday ordered an additional \$104 million in across-the-board cuts.

New Jersey adopted a budget just before the midnight deadline, as did Washington state.

New York City reached agreement on a spending plan in time to avert a takeover by a financial board created during the fiscal

crisis of the 1970s.

Legislators were forced by the recession to make tough choices including tax increases, thousands of layoffs and painful spending cuts — to close budget gaps ranging from \$467 million in Pennsylvania to \$14.3 billion in California.

New York Mayor David Dinkins said the budget agreement reached to his city "reflects a lot more pain and a lot less gain than any of us would like."

"It reflects our city's enormous fiscal constraints and the lingering recession that continues to hold our city — and our nation — hostage," he said.

In Maine, Governor John McKernan declared an emergency, ordering 2,000 employees to report to work at jobs involving

health and safety. More than 10,000 others were told to stay home while the legislature wrangled over a budget.

"We hope this impasse is going to be resolved as quickly as possible and we want to get back to the normal operation of government," Mr. McKernan said.

About 200 idled state employees and their supporters showed up at the state house Monday morning to demand their pay, rallying outside Mr. McKernan's outer office door.

Mr. Kenneth Walo, director of the State Employee Relations Bureau, said Monday that checks with officials overseeing prison and mental health facilities found full complements of workers and no problems.

Connecticut Governor Lowell Weicker vetoed a budget passed by the legislature but delayed a similar shutdown by 24 hours.

The legislature was given until midnight Monday to approve an acceptable budget.

Mr. Weicker has warned that he will furlough about 7,000 employees if lawmakers don't approve a spending plan he likes.

There were no other immediate threats of large-scale government shutdowns in states that failed to adopt budgets.

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- 2- Full description of the process, schematic drawing and layout of the plant and all relevant drawings.
- 3- Operating instructions.
- 4- Erection instructions.
- 5- Prices should be in itemised form.
- 6- Scope of delivery.
- 7- The offers should be addressed to:

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P.O.Box 92
Al Azraq — Jordan

Cinema Tel: 677420

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The Bikini Shop

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Cinema Tel: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

TENNESSEE BUCK

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30

Cinema Tel: 675571

NIJOM

1) NINJA TURTLES

2) SAVAGE WILL Arabic

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 5:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 625155

RAINBOW

THE BEACH GIRLS

Show: 3:30

REVENGE

Show: 6:30, 8:30

Yeltsin claims state property for Russia

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russian President Boris M. Yeltsin says he plans to transfer most of the property in Russia now under central government control to the republic itself.

Mr. Yeltsin, in interviews published Tuesday, also said he had reservations about a draft union treaty defining the Soviet republics' relations with Moscow, but would sign the document.

The draft accord, initiated by nine republics last month, is being considered by republican parliaments.

Interviewed by several Soviet news agencies during a visit to Siberia, Mr. Yeltsin said he opposed a provision in the treaty which allows the central government to collect taxes directly from citizens in Russia.

Mr. Yeltsin favours allowing the republic to collect taxes, and then handing over a portion of the money to Moscow.

One key issue under debate is whether property will be under republican control.

In claiming state property for Russia, Mr. Yeltsin said land used for industries, including railroads and defence, would remain under central government jurisdiction, the news agencies reported.

President Mikhail Gorbachev has said he hopes the union treaty will be signed this month, but several republics are unlikely to meet the deadline.

The Ukrainian parliament voted last Thursday to delay dis-

cussion of the treaty until September to allow experts to assess whether its terms contradicted the republic's declaration of sovereignty issued last year.

Six of the 15 republics — Armenia, Estonia, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania and Moldova — refuse to have anything to do with the treaty, saying they want independence.

Byelorussia and Kirghizia have approved the draft, but most other republics have demanded major amendments.

Turkmenia, the Soviet republic thought most loyal to the Kremlin, is showing signs of a political independence likely to hamper Mr. Gorbachev's efforts to bind the nation with the new union treaty.

"We don't think the union treaty will be signed for a long time," Turkmenian President Saparmurad Niyazov said in an interview Monday.

"It's very ambiguous," he said of the proposed new document to hold the 15 republics together.

Mr. Niyazov, long counted as a Gorbachev ally, also said Kremlin leaders should not have the right to levy taxes or to reap exclusive profit from the Central Asian republic's rich natural gas reserves or cotton harvest.

"They have been stealing from us for years," Mr. Niyazov told the Associated Press. "It's just pure theft."

Western diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, expressed surprise at Mr. Niyazov's

statements, which seemed to ally him more closely with Mr. Yeltsin than with Mr. Gorbachev on key union treaty issues.

Mr. Niyazov and leaders of the other three Central Asian republics previously backed Mr. Gorbachev in debates surrounding the union treaty.

Mr. Niyazov's comments also might surprise many of the 3.6 million residents of arid Turkmenia, which borders the Caspian Sea to the west and Iran and Afghanistan to the south.

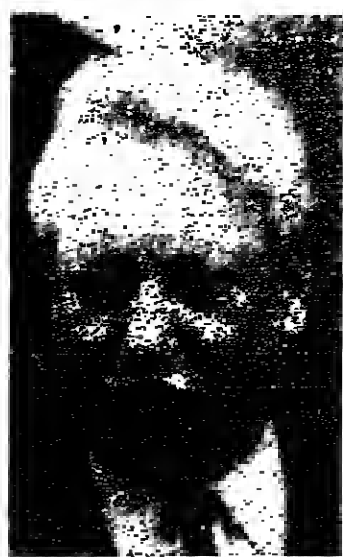
One of the poorest of the Soviet republics, Turkmenia is famous for its blistering Karakum Desert, its horsemen, red carpets, and isolation from the political drama that has shaken much of the Soviet Union since Mr. Gorbachev came to power six years ago.

Many Turkmenians seem content with isolation. Some peddlers at the rug bazaar on the outskirts of Ashkhabad say they have never heard of the United States.

Mr. Niyazov, who heads both Turkmenia's government and Communist Party branch, does not tolerate political dissent at home, say his critics.

While unrest rocks several other republics, the only disturbances reported in Turkmenia lately have been two small student protests, in 1989 and 1990.

But in the economic sphere, Mr. Niyazov's comments indicate he is starting to lean toward



Boris Yeltsin

reform.

Despite intense negotiations among Mr. Gorbachev and the republic leaders on the union treaty, some basic questions have not been settled, he said.

Under the most recent draft, the Kremlin "and each republic will use its own interpretation to get what it wants. It won't resolve anything," Mr. Niyazov said.

The critical questions for Turkmenia, he said, are control of the republic's natural gas and cotton. Until this year, revenues from virtually all of Turkmenistan's natural gas and cotton were controlled by central government ministries.

In return, Turkmenia, like other impoverished Central Asian republics, received subsidies from the central government.

This year, Mr. Niyazov is demanding higher prices and greater control over the republic's products.

He told a news conference he had disbanded the territory's Election Commission that conducted Saturday's polling, won by the conservative All-Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference, and named a judicial commission to investigate.

In an unprecedented defiance of Islamabad, Rathore ordered two key officials controlling the Azad Kashmir civil service and police to leave and named two state officials to take the posts of

chief secretary and inspector-general of police.

He said in an order the conduct of the two officials had been "disappointing, suspicious, negative and one-sided" during the elections.

Saturday's vote was held for 40 seats of a 48-seat legislative assembly which elects the state prime minister. The remaining eight seats, reserved for professional groups, were to be elected later by the 40 directly elected members.

Rathore took office last June for a five-year term. But he dissolved the assembly last April and ordered fresh elections to strengthen a shaky coalition he was heading.

Results declared so far for 34 seats gave a landslide victory to figurehead state President Sardar Abdol Qayyum's Muslim Conference Party with 28 seats. Only two were won by Rathore's state branch of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) led by Bhutto.

Three seats were won by an alliance of small groups and one by a PPP-backed independent candidate.

Rathore said he could not stop vote-rigging because he had already transferred all executive powers to the state chief election commissioner for the election period.

He said he would order fresh elections after the three-judge judicial commission reported on the matter.

Mandela says constitutional talks likely 'sooner rather than later'

DURBAN, South Africa (AP) — Nelson Mandela told his African National Congress (ANC) Tuesday that it must be prepared to hold constitutional talks with the white-led government "sooner rather than later."

Mandela, speaking on the opening day of the ANC national conference, made clear the ANC would have to negotiate its way into power rather than return to a now-suspended armed struggle.

"Despite our own heroic efforts we have not defeated the regime," Mandela told more than 2,000 delegates in the Indian Ocean city of Durban.

"We see negotiations as a continuation of the struggle leading to our central objective: The transfer of power to the people."

Mandela, the ANC's deputy president, is expected to replace the ailing Oliver Tambo as president of South Africa's leading black opposition movement.

In addition to elections for new

leaders, the ANC will review its policies on sanctions, black-on-black violence and constitutional negotiations with the government.

President F.W. de Klerk's government has repealed all major apartheid laws and wants to begin talks on a non-racial constitution this year with the ANC and other opposition parties. The black majority still has no voting rights despite the end of apartheid laws.

However, Mandela said the government must first do more to end the violence in black townships, which has claimed some 6,000 black lives in five years. Most of the violence has been between supporters of the ANC and Inkatha, the conservative Zulu-based organisation.

Mandela said that some whites do not support de Klerk's reforms and accuse the security forces of involvement in some of the killings in an effort to undermine peace efforts.

"That is precisely why there has been the escalation of public violence," he said. "It was not because we were failing that they decided to shoot the people down. It was exactly because we are succeeding."

Noetheless, Mandela said he was confident that all leading political parties could soon meet to discuss a non-racial constitution.

"We must calculate on the congress taking place sooner rather than later," he said.

De Klerk legalised that ANC last year after a 30-year ban, but it has been beset by problems, many of them related to its poor organisational skills.

De Klerk has captured the political momentum with his sweeping race reforms, while the ANC battles to transform itself from a national liberation movement into a coherent, unified political party.

Azad Kashmir premier invalidates polls

ISLAMABAD (R) — Prime Minister Murtaza Hussain Rathore of Pakistan-ruled Kashmir Tuesday declared invalid referendum elections last weekend alleging they were rigged to defeat his party.

He told a news conference he had disbanded the territory's Election Commission that conducted Saturday's polling, won by the conservative All-Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference, and named a judicial commission to investigate.

In an unprecedented defiance of Islamabad, Rathore ordered two key officials controlling the Azad Kashmir civil service and police to leave and named two state officials to take the posts of

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